Ann Arbor Observer

May 2007

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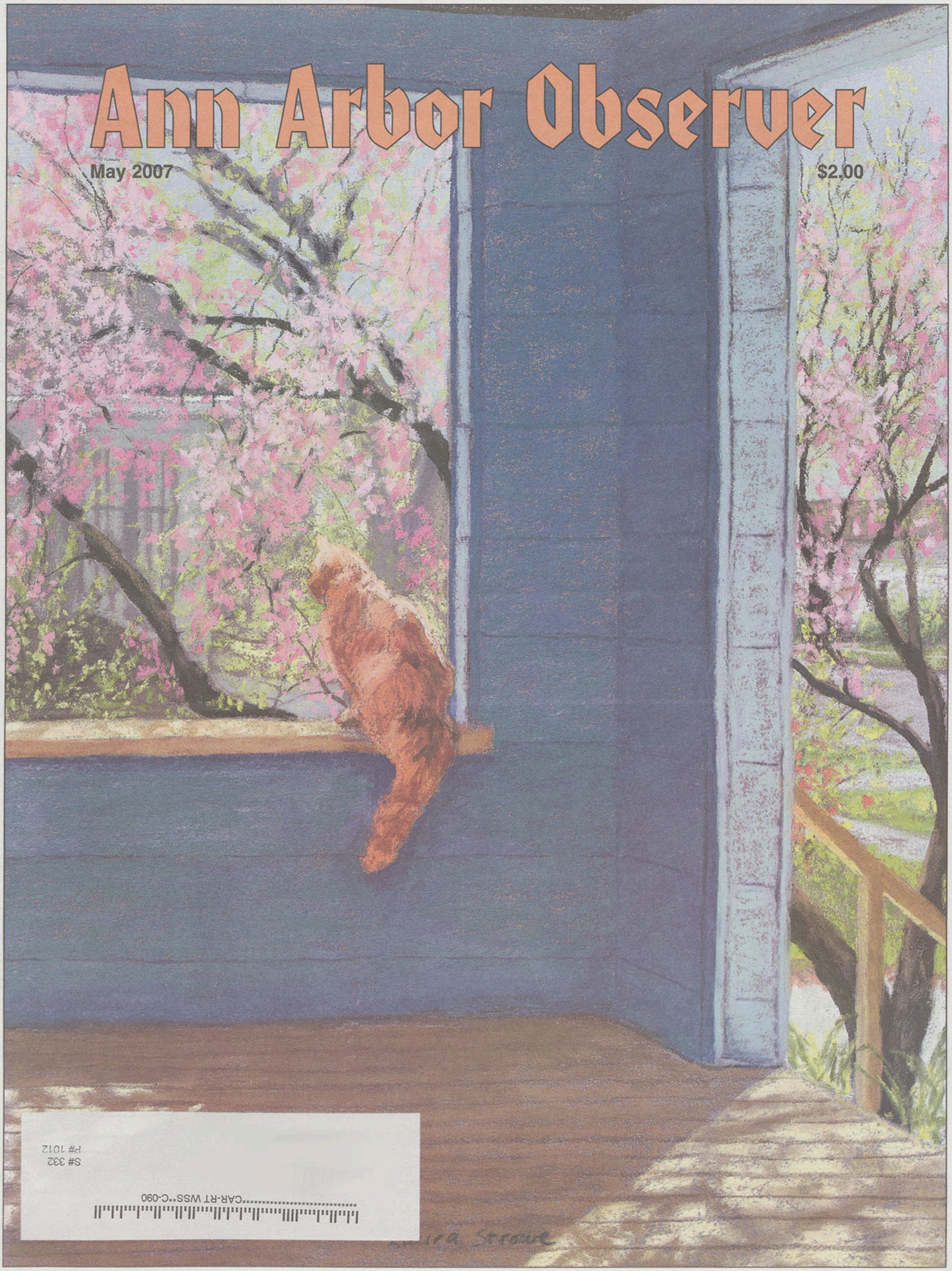

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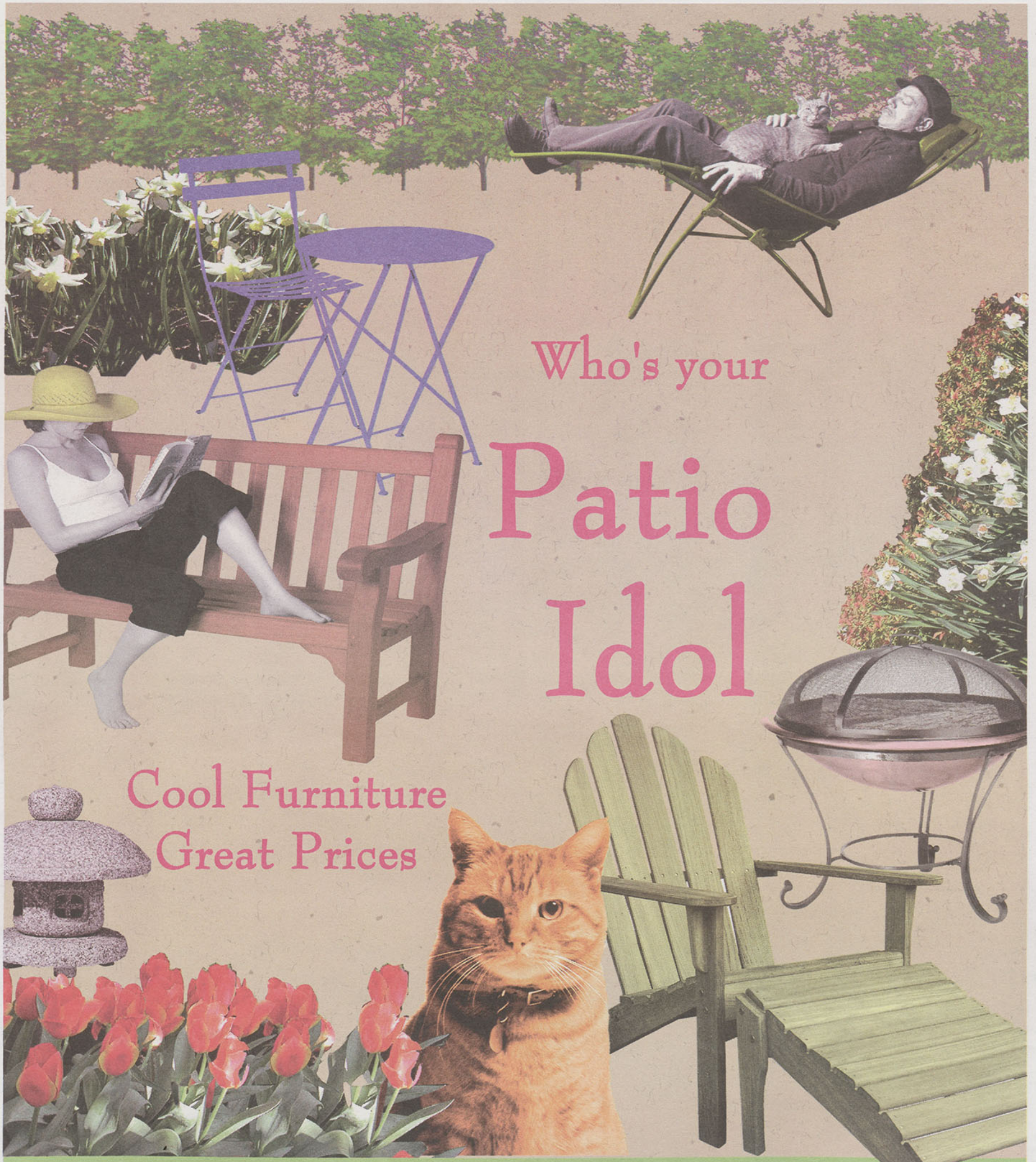

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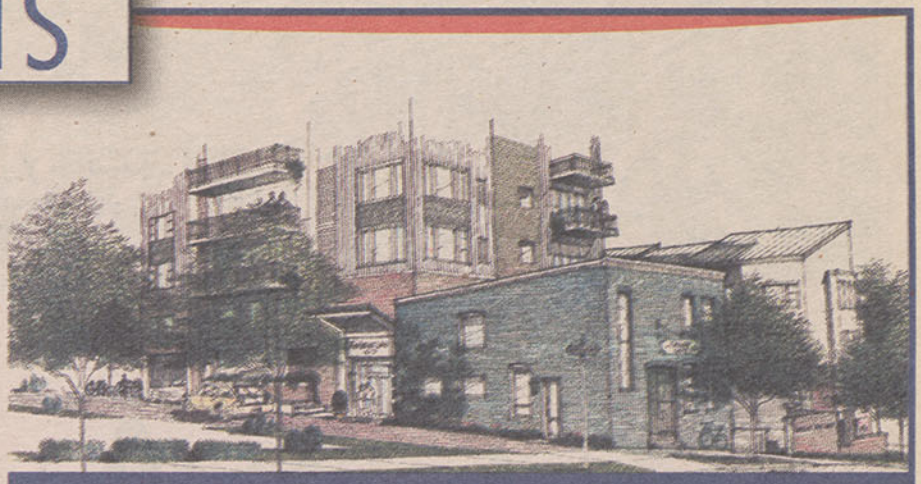

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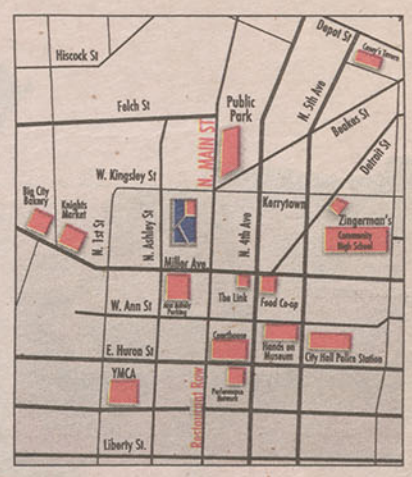

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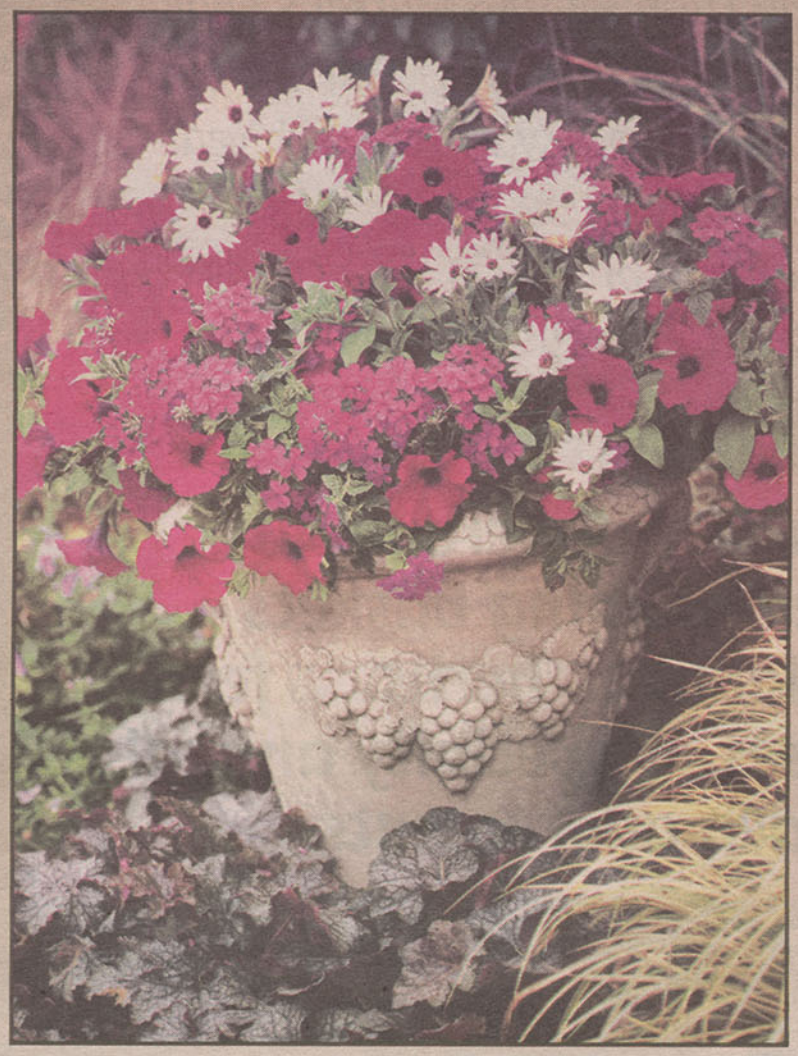

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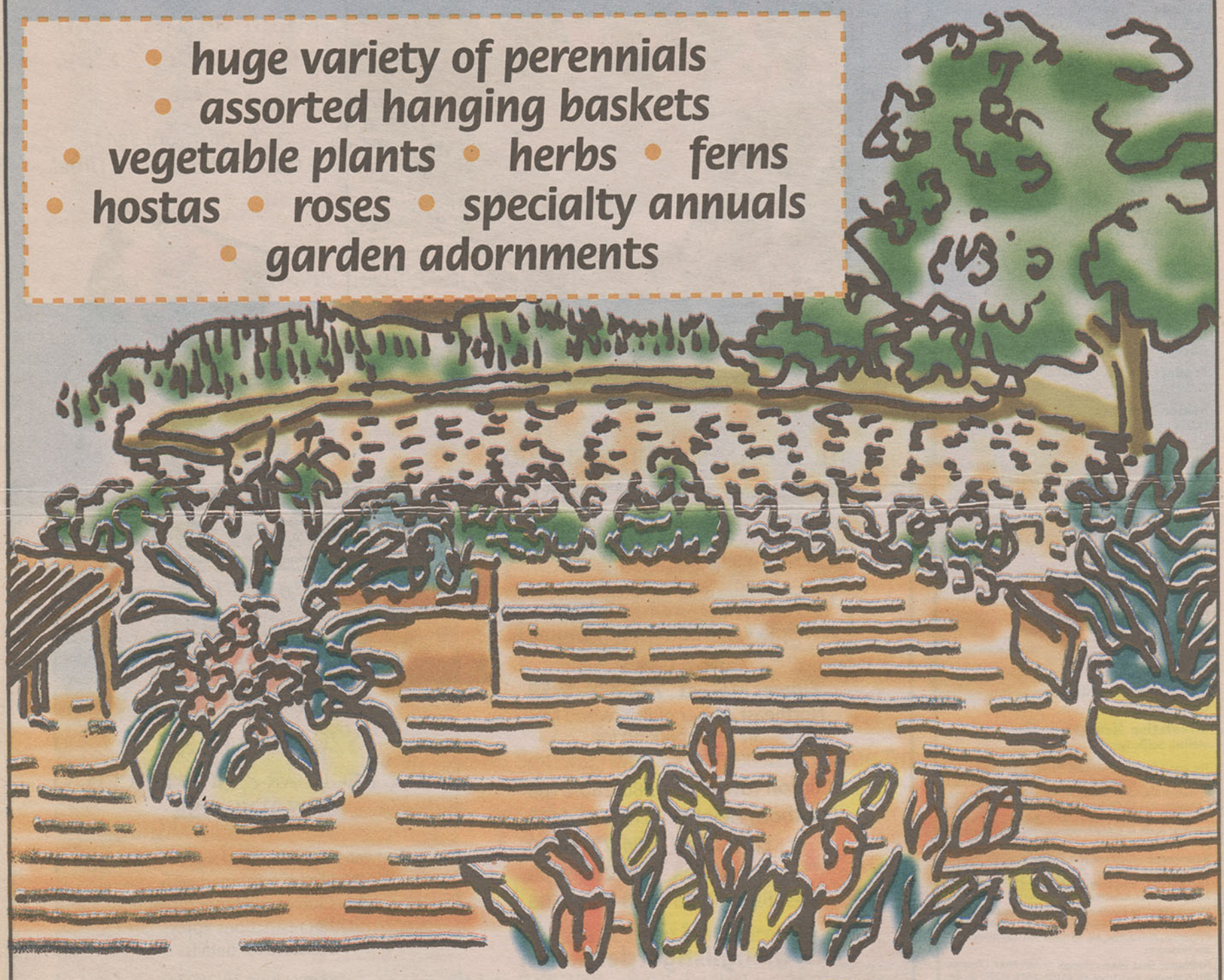

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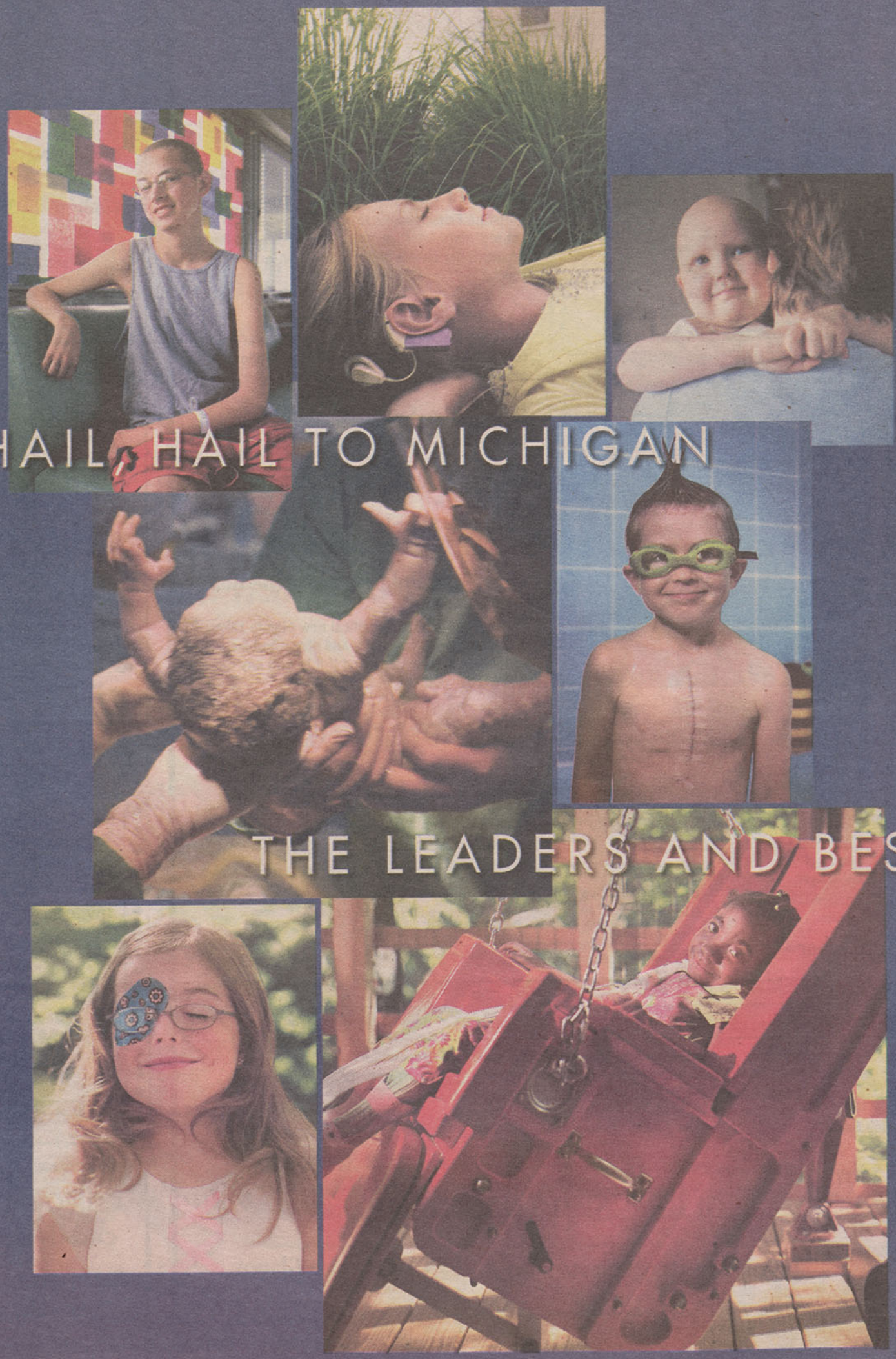

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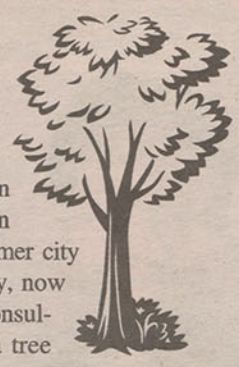
UpFront

The missing test: When people standing in line at the Maple Village Secretary of State office learn that Michigan abolished its written driver's test, the most frequent response is, "You're kidding!" It's not exactly breaking news—Michigan Department of State spokesman Ken Silfven says the test was dropped four years ago—but many drivers let at least that amount of time pass between visits. (A Michigan driver's license needs to be renewed every four years, and most people can renew alternate times by mail.) It turns out it was never really a pass/fail test, though Silfven realizes a lot of people didn't know that and actually studied for it. "It was just a way to spread information and update people on changes," he says. "When the Internet exploded, we realized there were more efficient ways to get information to people." But if someone really misses the test, Silfven adds, "I think there's a sample one you can take online."

Panhandling rules: The city's campaign to curb intimidation by beggars appears to be working. "They're much less aggressive," says Tom Heywood, executive director of the State Street Area Association. "They are fewer, and they are politer." Main Street Area Association director Ellie Serras says that "the new regulations have helped." A 2003 city ordinance forbade certain types of panhandling—requiring, for instance, that beggars keep at least twelve feet from ATMs. "The ordinance helped us out quite a bit" in dealing with problem panhandlers, says Ann Arbor policeman Rob Schneider. Twenty-two people were arrested or ticketed for panhandling-related offenses in 2006, up from seven in 2002.

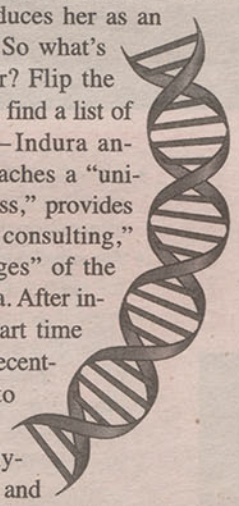
What also has helped, say Serras and others, is the increased visibility of advocates working the streets who try to get help and housing for mentally ill or substance-abusing panhandlers. But "Loose Change for Real Change," a program that sought to persuade the public to give to social services instead of individual beggars, has foundered. Most of the group's fund-raising canisters were ripped off, says downtown barber Bob Dascola. And Schneider adds that Ann Arbor remains a magnet for unwired or opportunistic street people. "You'll see patrol cars from surrounding areas dropping off people," he says. That's perfectly legal, according to Schneider—Ann Arbor is a legitimate destination for people needing social services because of the homeless shelter and the VA Hospital.

Syrup scrutiny: Is it illegal to tap your own maple tree in Ann Arbor? The question came up in February on the arborparents Yahoo email group when one member said her brother-in-law was supposedly ticketed for doing it. A second member wondered whether collecting sap harms the trees. "Weird," wrote another.



"There are no legal restrictions on tapping one's own maples," emails former city forester Paul Bairley, now an arboricultural consultant. But tapping a tree on public property—even a street tree right in front of your house—is another thing. The city's concern is less the health of the trees than the health of the syrup makers. "Street trees grow in soils that become laden with a variety of caustic compounds, such as deicing salt residues, petroleum distillates from asphalt patch work, and certainly the unknown chemical residues from home owners who may use weed-and-feed and other lawn care herbicides," Bairley explains. But the notion of the city giving tapping tickets may just be an urban myth in the making—neither Bairley nor his successor, Kay Sicheneder, has ever issued one. "[A] citizen on Sunset was the only person I actually had to take action on—removing the equipment, contacting him, and meeting with him to return the gear and discuss the rationale," Bairley recalls. "Considering I was there for twenty-five years, that's not bad, eh?"

Spiritual DNA: In periwinkle text over purple swirls, Molly Ann Indura's business card introduces her as an "intuitive advisor." So what's an intuitive advisor? Flip the card over and you'll find a list of psychic offerings—Indura answers questions, teaches a "universal Kabbalah class," provides "intuitive business consulting," and clears "blockages" of the body, mind, and aura. After intuitively advising part time for five years, she recently made the shift to full time, marketing her services with flyers, business cards, and the website bethelight.org. What's in the most demand? She says it's a tie between her clearing work and "twenty-two-strand DNA activation." No, that's not a way of turning yourself into a genetically modified organism: "What I do is activate your light body so you have more access to your full mind, spiritual potential, and your whole being," Indura says. It's a little unclear just how that's done—but her website does say the procedure costs $111 and "has been handed down from the time of King Solomon."



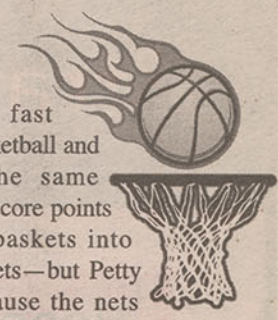
T-shirt politics: Hillary Clinton is spanking George W. Bush on a shirt in the window of Liberty Street T-Shirts. Has anyone complained? Shop owner Elmo Morales says that one woman did protest that she didn't want her children to see the anti-Bush shirts. He says he told her, "If you can find pro-Bush shirts, I'll carry them." Morales insists he can't find pro-president shirts even when he goes to Las Vegas trade shows. Meanwhile, at Middle Earth, a shirt supporting Barack Obama reads "Bros before hos."

Though that anti-Hillary message swims close to the waters where Don Imus drowned, employee Eric Penrose says the nearest things to complaints he's heard are comments like "You certainly seem very liberal here." Penrose says the Obama shirts have been selling well. Morales says his anti-Bush shirts are especially in demand right before peace rallies.

A2B3: Every Thursday, the Ann Arbor *bi bim bop* lunch group assembles at Eastern Accents on Fourth Avenue to schmooze over big bowls of Korean fare. At one recent lunch, the conversation ranged from local real estate development and overcrowded parking structures to a philosophical debate about when data become knowledge and gossip about members' projects. Attendees generally belong to the city's technorati—computer programmers, project managers, grad students, and even a couple of tech-minded politicians. But the key common denominator is that they all know Ed Vielmetti.

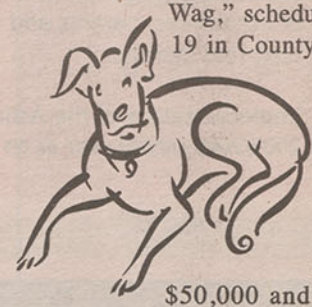
A prolific local blogger, Vielmetti started the lunches as a way to get some face time with his techie friends; the email invite list currently includes sixty-six of them. Ed, whose day job is with Internet search engine marketing firm Pure Visibility, says he's always had a passion for getting people together, whether online, in person, in chat forums, or on the phone. He and his wife, Deborah Fisch, even maintain a Yahoo group for their neighbors in west-of-Packard Burns Park. Who may join? "Anyone within shouting distance," he says.

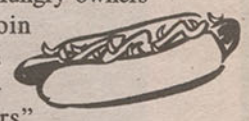
Netball is here: "It's like ultimate Frisbee meets basketball," says Steve Petty, netball enthusiast and YMCA sports director. Netball is the most popular women's sport in Commonwealth countries, but it was unknown in Ann Arbor until Petty, a native Briton, brought the game to the Y in October. It now has fourteen to seventeen players who meet every two weeks. "There's not one person who's come down that didn't really, really enjoy it," says Petty with a huge smile.



Netball is fast paced like basketball and played on the same court. Players score points by shooting baskets into freestanding nets—but Petty says that because the nets have no backboards, it's "incredibly difficult" to score. Two teams of seven pass a soccer-size white ball downcourt to get near the basket. There is no dribbling, and the ball carrier may take only a single step before passing to a teammate. The court is divided into thirds, and players' positions determine where they are allowed to move. "It's an intense physical cardio workout because of the short bursts of running," says Petty—whose next goal is to introduce local gym teachers to the sport.

Hot dogs for real dogs: Wieners are the featured food item at "Walk & Wag," scheduled for May 19 in County Farm Park. It's the Humane Society's biggest annual fund-raiser, and usually nets between $50,000 and $75,000 to fund shelter operations, spaying and neutering services, a full-time cruelty investigator, and Michigan's only twenty-four-hour animal rescue program. Three hundred local dogs are expected to participate in the bone 'n' ball treasure hunt held in a hay maze, get pawdicures, compete in a "sit and stay" contest, and watch a performing troupe of dogs race through an obstacle course. Hungry owners won't have to join their pooches in the popular "bobbing for wieners" event, though—Busch's is providing the regular variety for companion persons.





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$42,000—average value of the electricity generated at the city's Barton and Superior dams in May, the most productive month

$5,000—average value of the electricity generated in August, the least productive month

$49,000—value in August 2000, when rainfall was 40 percent above normal

$30,000—average monthly value of electricity generated from methane captured at the former city landfill on Ellsworth

$5,400—low-mileage 2002 GEM electric car (2-seater w/flatbed), advertised in April on arborlist.com

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Strategic Plan 2007→2012

Honoring our past, planning for our future today....

The Ann Arbor Public School district is engaged in a process which honors our long history as an excellent public school system but also acknowledges that we must act now to strengthen the educational experience for every student. A thirty-two member Strategic Planning Team representing parents, students, teachers, administrators, trustees, and community members drafted the Strategic Plan. It is a plan that includes beliefs, a mission, objectives, and strategies. Specific Action Plans, designed to achieve the strategies identified, will be drafted by a larger group of employees, parents and community members over the next few months.

Implementation of the Action Plans will begin during the 2007/2008 school year as an on going process updated annually.

Mission

The mission of the Ann Arbor Public Schools, a world-class system of innovative teaching and learning, is to ensure each student realizes his or her aspirations while advancing the common good through a community dynamic distinguished by:

- Personalized learning that is curiosity driven, student directed, teacher inspired
- Challenging and provocative curriculum
- Individualized and group creative expression
- The nurturing of the human spirit
- Culturally congruent instruction
- Forging alliances with families and communities

Beliefs

An expression of fundamental values: ethical code, overriding convictions, inviolable principles.

We believe that...

...heritage shapes individual identity.
...all people have the right to learn without limits.
...a person's achievement can not be predetermined.
...we are strongest when working together.
...everyone can make a valuable contribution to society.
...environmental stewardship is our moral obligation.
...the dignity of each person deserves respect.
...racism is destructive.
...communication leads to understanding, understanding fosters relationships, and community is built on those relationships.
...we first create in ourselves what we seek to create in the world.
...all people deserve to live in a healthy, safe environment.
...diversity enriches a community.
...individual potential deserves fulfillment.
...all people have the innate desire for creative expression.

Objectives

An uncompromising commitment to achieve specific, measurable, observable, or demonstrable results that exceed its present capability.

- 100% of Ann Arbor Public School students will exceed international standards in achievement.
- Each student progressively achieves his/her personalized educational goals.
- Students have and demonstrate concern for self and others.
- Each student is a positive contributor to his/her community.
- All students are accomplished in their lifelong pursuits.

Strategies

Bold resolutions that dedicate the organization's resources and energies toward the continuous creation of systems to achieve the extraordinary as expressed in the mission and objectives.

- We will create a complete educational program featuring personalized learning that realizes student aspirations and meets international standards.
- We will develop and implement a personalized learning plan for each student.
- We will actualize the potential for excellence in all students through inspiration and support.
- We will ensure meaningful learning through effective teaching.
- We will implement a system to ensure continuous development of staff capacity.
- We will inform and engender trust and support from our constituents to accomplish our mission and objectives.
- We will create and maintain physical learning environments that enable us to fulfill our mission.
- We will ensure resources adequate to accomplish our mission and objectives.

Parameters

Boundaries within which the organization will accomplish its mission; self-imposed limitations.

- We will make all decisions and take all actions based strictly on the best interest of the student.
- We will not tolerate prejudice by anyone.
- We will not accept ineffective performance.
- We will not compromise excellence.
- We will ensure the safety and security of all those in the district.
- We will not engage in anything that does not support our primary-secondary educational programs.

If you are interested in being a member of one of the Action Teams, please contact Liz Margolis at 994.2236 or margolis@aaps.k12.mi.us

Not So Friendly

Some Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library fear for the future of their bookstore.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

The Ann Arbor District Library wants an extra $35,000 a year from its Friends group—money that's currently used to pay Friends bookshop manager Diane Clark (right, with customer Laura F. Davis).

It's been a rough year for the Friends, a group of some 300 library devotees, many of them retirees, who shelve, store, and sell books in the basement of the downtown branch to raise money for the library (the Friends support the summer reading program for children and teenagers). The problems started late last summer after an indignant donor complained that his $10,000 contribution to the group had not been acknowledged. It turned out that the Friends had been so lax with their paperwork that no one had filed annual reports with the state since 2001 and the group had been dissolved as a nonprofit corporation. In response, library director Josie Parker and the elected board of trustees suspended book sales for a few months and insisted the Friends get their own phone number and website and submit to an audit. The Friends' former president resigned, and the group paid $8,000 for a six-year audit.

The review found no problems, but ever since the embarrassment over the donation, the library administration has taken a stricter line with the group. Friends volunteers can no longer start working before the library opens, and they're required to wear IDs. "They're treating the Friends like Typhoid Mary and her brothers and sisters," complains volunteer cashier Jeanne Hernandez. "They act like we're contagious."

The big issue, though, is money: the library has asked the group to increase its annual donation from $90,000 to $125,000 a year. That would mean giving the library about 80 percent of the sale's proceeds, up from about 60–65 percent currently. Unless the Friends are able to increase donations—a tough task in the current economic climate—the library's request would seem to jeopardize the job of the Friends' well-liked and efficient bookstore manager, Diane Clark. The group's only paid employee, she earns about $41,000 a year and often works fifty hours a week. Clark supervises the 100 or so regular volunteers and handles every detail from labeling the shelves to arranging, at the final sale before the store closes for the summer, the donation of unsold books to senior centers or military personnel.

Parker shrugs off the question of how the bookshop might survive without a paid director. They "could raise more money," she suggests. How? "I don't know," she snaps. "I don't run the Friends." Library board president Margaret Leary also appears unconcerned. "They can choose how to staff the bookstore," she says.

Friends acting president Eric Owen cautiously acknowledges that if the group were to lose Clark, it would have to rethink its business. "You're not going to find someone who's going to put in that kind of time for free," he says.

Some Friends believe the administration's stern response is related to the 1999 embezzlement conviction of the library's former finance director. Officials, they suggest, are terrified of another scandal. Whether that's the case or not, they're clearly looking for more space. Parker—a hard-nosed manager who has brought accountability to the library in her five years as director—has made it no secret that she wants a larger meeting space than the current 150-seat multipurpose room. Following a nationwide trend for libraries to function more as "community centers," the downtown library has been bringing in more speakers, ranging from local experts to best-selling authors. Parker points out that when popular author Dave Eggers spoke, about 400 people came—and some had to listen on the third floor, via closed-circuit TV.

Last summer, a local architect suggested several options for finding more meeting space—including expanding the current multipurpose room into the neighboring Friends bookstore. Space is a building-wide issue, and the library has hired a library planning firm to explore the future of the downtown facility; its report is due June 1. One long-time Friend who requested anonymity speculates that library officials would like the group to quietly close up the bookshop and disappear—but adds that the library "doesn't want the Friends to say it was their fault."

Is the library so fat and sassy that it can yawn off the Friends' contribution? Its annual operating budget is more than $10 million a year, so the Friends' share is only about 1 percent of the total. An emergency gift from the group helped see the library through the embezzlement scandal in 1999, but that crisis is long past. In fact, the library is now so flush that it recently told the Friends to delay a planned $30,000 donation until July. "We're at the end of our fiscal year," explained Parker in March. "We would have tremendous difficulty spending a huge sum of money."

From the perspective of trustee Leary, only a "very small minority" of the Friends are complaining. And she says the group's main value is "their role as library supporters of the community. . . . The money is icing on the cake."

Parker denies that there's any plan to force the group out, saying the volunteers' financial support "is marvelous, and we're grateful." She also insists, "I think everything the library board has done should indicate we're committed to having the Friends in the library building."

COURTESY MACKINAC ISLAND PRESS

Tracy Gallup's new children's book combines benign imagery with gentle thoughts: "When a stone speaks to me, I listen."

Stone Crazy

Doll maker Tracy Gallup has branched into books.

Ann Arbor artist Tracy Gallup made art dolls for twenty-five years. Her whimsical human-animal hybrids

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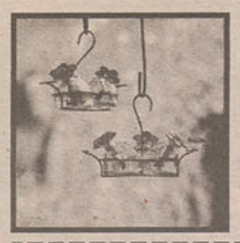

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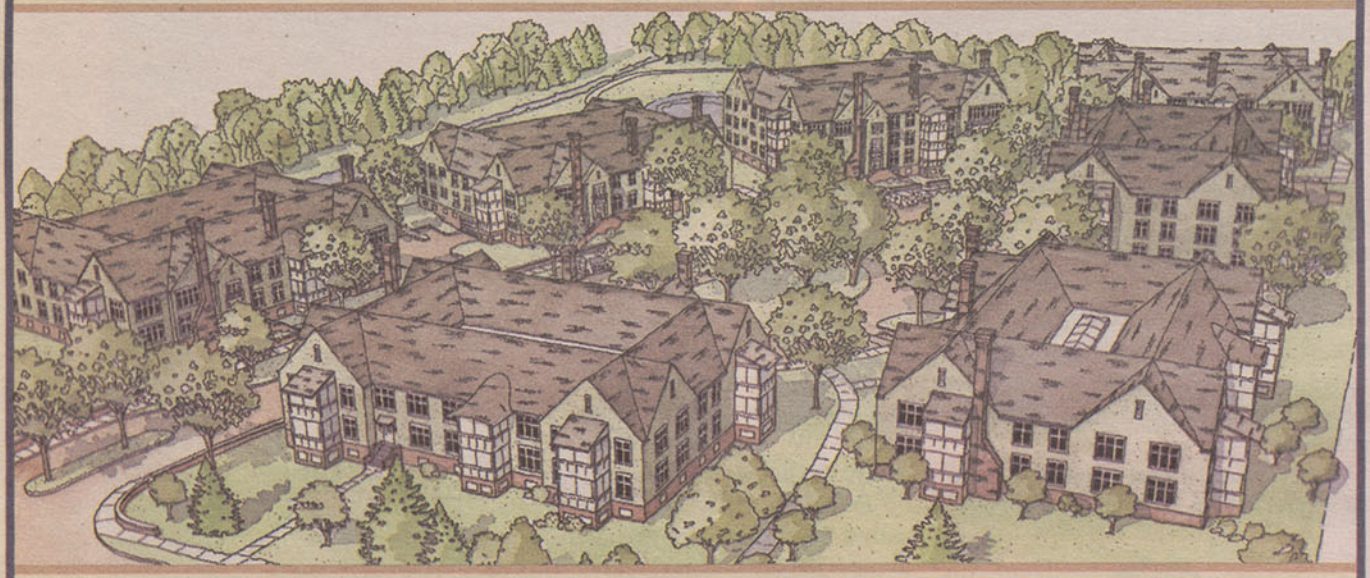

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were so popular at art fairs and in galleries that at one point she needed eight helpers to keep up with demand. She's since wound that business down—but may be on the verge of an even bigger hit.

Vacationing on Lake Michigan two summers ago, Gallup began collecting stones. Back home, she paired them with dreamy, pudgy figures she had been making out of paper clay. One day her violin teacher arrived and saw them lined up on the mantelpiece. "You have a story," the teacher said. "I don't know what it is, but you have a story."

Gallup had also been writing poetry (a poem, she says, "is a thought that's said in an epiphany sort of way"). She began working on a mock-up of a small book combining gentle thoughts with the scenes she'd created with her blithe little-people figures (they could be called dolls if they didn't seem so paradoxically monumental).

Gallup had illustrated a book for Brian and Anne Lewis of Mackinac Island Press, so she showed the mock-up to Anne. Lewis knew a good thing when she saw it. Who could resist the message "When a stone speaks to me, I listen" paired with a photo of a beatific clay boy embracing a big stone?

The result is a set of four eight-inch-square books, child friendly, that combine Beatrix Potter's style of wit and wisdom with a little Zen simplicity and poetry of leisurely rhythm. *Stone Crazy* and *Shell Crazy* will be published this month, with *Tree Crazy* and *Snow Crazy* to follow in late summer. The Lewises already have received requests to translate them into other languages.

Gallup's winsome figures may even join Potter's Peter Rabbit in the growing world of licensed merchandise. Gallup and the Lewises are working on an agreement that will reproduce the characters from her Crazy Little Series in 3-D figures, along with other items such as calendars and greeting cards.

Life after Phosphorus

"If we don't need it, let's not use it."

That's how Matt Naud, Ann Arbor's environmental coordinator, sums up the city's new phosphorus fertilizer ordinance. It prohibits the use of manufactured phosphorus fertilizer on lawns, unless the soil has been shown to need it. Soil tests indicate that most yards in the city already have enough phosphorus to grow a healthy lawn, Naud says—so "residents in Ann Arbor should assume they don't need phosphorus."

The law's origins go back sixteen years. According to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, it began with a report of a "green paint spill" on Ford Lake in 1991. The "paint" turned out to be a severe algal bloom—a thick scum fed by high levels of phosphorus in the

COURTESY WASHTENAW COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

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COURTESY WASHTENAW COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Lawn fertilizer can run straight into the river via city storm drains.

Huron River. MDEQ set targets to lower those levels, and Ann Arbor and other upriver communities agreed to voluntarily limit the amount of phosphorus they send into the Huron.

The goal is to halve phosphorus emissions by 2009. At the city's wastewater treatment plant, specially cultivated bacteria already gobble up 95 percent of the phosphorus from food and other in-house uses. But the storm drains, which are separate, run directly into the river, and they carry a lot of phosphorus—much of it from improperly used lawn fertilizers, says Elizabeth Riggs, watershed planner for the Huron River Watershed Council. Runoff soars when landscapers use too much fertilizer, leave it on concrete surfaces that can't absorb it, or apply it when it can easily wash off—before the ground thaws, for example, or just before a rainstorm.

The origins of the city's new ordinance go back sixteen years, to when a "green paint spill" on Ford Lake turned out to be a severe algal bloom—a thick scum fed by high levels of phosphorus in the Huron River.

The city enacted the law in January 2006 but delayed enforcement until this past January so that retailers could sell off their existing fertilizer stocks. Commercial applicators are required to register with the city and submit an annual report of the locations where they've put down phosphorus. Home owners can comply by applying only fertilizer that has a zero as the middle (phosphorus) number on the label. "It took a long time to get this done," Naud said, "but the length of time has worked to our advantage. We really didn't get anyone complaining when this went to council."

And if your lawn really needs phosphorus, you're still allowed to use it. "We're not banning phosphorus," Naud stresses. "You just need a soil test." And there are other exceptions. Adding phosphorus fer-

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tilizer to help establish new lawns is permitted, for example, as is using phosphorus in fertilizing trees and gardens. "This is about growing grass," Naud says. "Large swaths."

Playing Nice with Lice

The Ann Arbor Public Schools try a kinder, gentler policy on head lice.

Gone are the days when a student found to have the dreaded pediculosis capitis, or head lice, would be mortifyingly pulled out of class and sent home from school. Starting in 2005, the Ann Arbor Public Schools adopted a more relaxed policy, based on the state's Michigan Head Lice Manual.

Kids with lice still aren't supposed to come to school, but if an infestation is found, students may stay for the remainder of the day and ride the bus home. Also axed was the no-nit policy in which kids with eggs but no live lice were kept out of school. The new policy recommends that students can return to class as long as they don't have any live little buggers in their hair or any viable nits—that is, eggs within a quarter inch of the scalp.

These changes in policy are backed by scientific evidence that no-nit policies do not reduce the transmission of head lice and, most important, that mature lice don't spread disease—just more lice! Lice are ugly and a pain to get rid of, but they don't cause any actual harm. Keeping kids out of school because of them disrupts education and causes undue embarrassment.

Although the new rules changed the way schools handle kids with lice, they haven't necessarily changed the emotions brought on by the parasites. "You can't believe how people get crazy about lice," explains school nurse Nancy Polmear-Swendris. Even though the once-common "lice checks" conducted on groups of students do not have any significant effect on the incidence of head lice, parents or even staff can get so worked up that they insist the nurses do them. At Angell Elementary last year, a nurse ended up browsing the scalps of an entire grade of elementary students.

The schools have adopted a more relaxed louse policy—but some parents still freak out.

School nurses understand how much effort it takes parents to rid their child of head lice—washing bedding and clothing, shampooing with pesticide products, and hours of tedious daily nit picking and combing. "It's a lot of work," Polmear-Swendris explains, "and that pushes people over the edge." So where do these bugs rate in the course of a school nurse's day-to-day concerns, which include kids with life-threatening disabilities, asthma, food allergies, diabetes, nebulizer machines, inhalers, and epi-pens? "Are we worried about lice?" she asks rhetorically, and answers, "We're not worried about lice."

This has been a slow lice year, with some elementary schools having no lice and others having a few persistent cases. (Lice are most common in the elementary grades, mostly because of the close contact among younger students.) Between them, Huron and Pioneer high schools have reported only one case of lice in the last four years.

Growing Generosity

At a time when other funders are cutting back, the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop's charitable donations are up 23 percent.

Run entirely by female volunteers, the shop has given away $4.4 million, adjusted to 2007 dollars, since Margaret McOmber founded it in 1932. Originally a one-woman operation—McOmber used the first proceeds to pay hospital bills for pregnant women—it was run by volunteers from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church before taking its current form as an independent, nondenominational charity in 1938.

A man once came running in saying that his son was getting married in an hour and he needed something to wear. He had only $4, but the women easily found him clothes in his price range, and he ran back out the door appropriately dressed.

For its first forty-six years the shop was on Fourth Avenue downtown—briefly in a since-demolished building at the corner of Huron and then at 120 North Fourth Avenue, where Park Shoe Repair is now. In the early years, the big challenge was getting enough good used clothes and household goods to sell. To attract high-end donations, members invited their friends to a yearly "bundle tea," a social event whose price of admission was a bundle of clothes to donate. The tea was held at changing locations (including twice at the U-M President's House), usually with a contingent of

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GRIFFIN LIBDSAY

Thanks to Marcy VanderTuig and other volunteers—and a move to a high-traffic spot on Washtenaw—the Thrift Shop's sales are up 50 percent.

husbands stationed outside to load the bundles onto trucks.

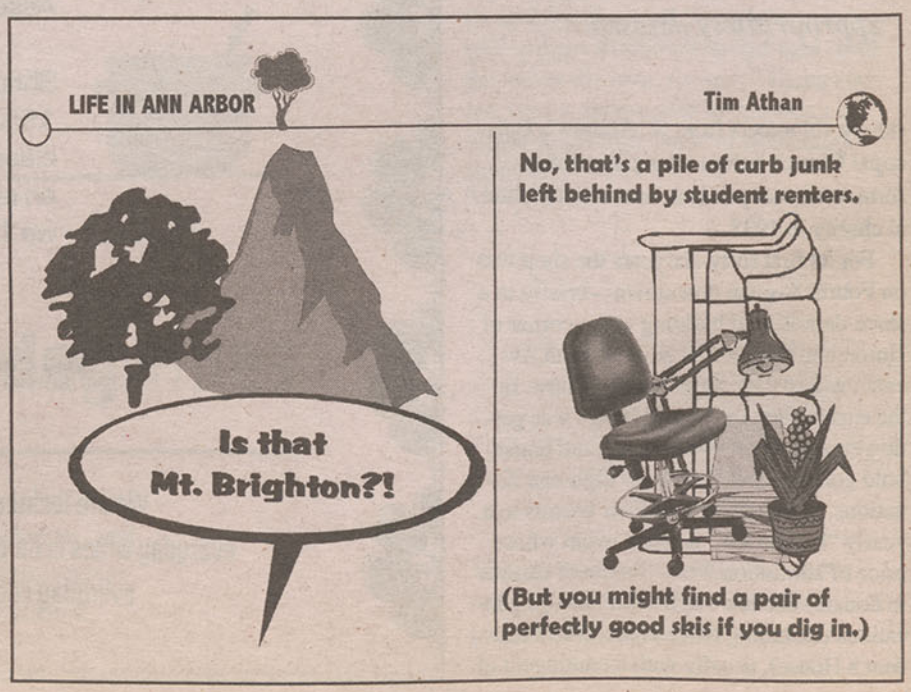
Member Virginia Patton Moss remembers that the thrift shop sold a lot of shirts to elderly bachelors who lived at the nearby Downtown Club (now the Washtenaw County Annex); they found it easier to buy clean used shirts than to get their old ones laundered. Then and now, other customers included bargain-hunting families and retro-chic shoppers—even Madonna as a U-M student (see "Like a Virgin," March).

In the early days, much of the money raised went to buy milk and hot lunches for schoolchildren. Today the shop works with seventy-two social service agencies, of which about forty regularly call on it for assistance. It specializes in small gifts to provide short-term fixes for people with urgent needs, like writing a rent check so a family isn't evicted overnight or paying a car-repair bill so someone can drive to work the next day. "Sometimes the lack of three hundred dollars can have a snowball effect," explains member Kit Mundus Steinaway.

The shop moved to Broadway after the Fourth Avenue building was sold in 1979. To keep costs down, volunteers and family members did most of the renovation themselves—member Helen Hall remembers seeing Allan Smith, then interim U-M president, flat on his back making some repairs. The new space was lighter and more modern—but people had trouble finding it.

In 2003 the shop's space was again sold by its landlord, this time for the planned Broadway Village project. The new location at 3530 Washtenaw is right across from Arborland, on a bus line that makes it convenient for both EMU and U-M students. "We've gone from better, to bester, to the best," says Moss.

The store faces much more competition than it used to. Every time a new used-clothes store opened, such as the Salvation Army or the PTO Thrift Shop, members worried that their business would decline, but in fact the arrivals of the newcomers seemed to help. "We now realize that the more the merrier," says Steinaway. Sales are up 50 percent since the move, and the shop's charitable donations have soared as well—from an average of $120,000 a year on Broadway to an average of $147,000 in 2005 and 2006.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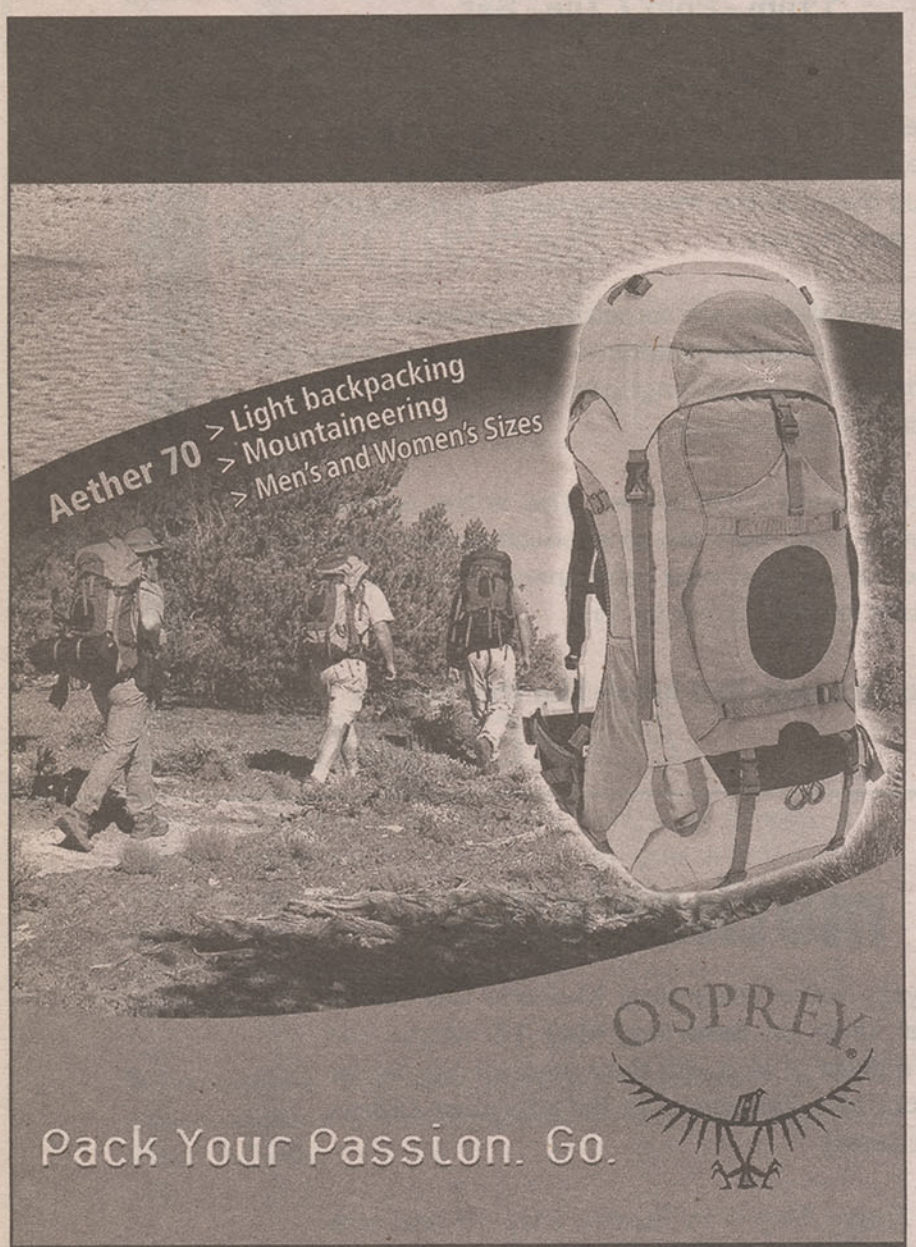

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As Ann Arborites buy more stuff, the shop's big challenge has evolved from getting enough donations to sell to getting them all sorted and priced. The shop doesn't accept any donations during the first ten days of each month to give the volunteers time to catch up. Prices remain very low: members recall how a man once came running in saying that his son was getting married in an hour and he needed something to wear. He had only $4, but the women easily found him clothes in his price range, and he ran back out the door appropriately dressed.

The Thrift Shop is celebrating its seventy-fifth birthday May 17–19 with a big tent sale in front of the store. The first day, the shop has invited the local social service agencies it works with as well as local politicians, members, and guests. The next two days the public is invited, and everything will be half price.

GRIFFIN LIBDSAY

Krappy Kameras

"Lo fi" photographers celebrate the pleasures of imperfection.

At the opening of *Cheap Shots: The Silver Dreams of Plastic Cameras* on March 23, people spilled from Gallery 4 and pooled downstairs, filling Nickels Arcade with an urgent buzz. The Krappy Kamera Club's debut exhibition carried an aura of significance, including a manifesto displayed along with the twenty-eight framed photographs. Professing an aversion to the "sterile perfection" of digital technology, KKC members use the very humblest film cameras, spurning micro-

The Krappy Kamera Club manifesto states, "The toy camera aesthetic . . . celebrates the messy unpredictability and dreamlike imagery that only a truly rotten camera can provide."

processed razzle-dazzle. Seventeen adherents of this doctrine presented work, and their various Polaroids, pinhole camera shots, and box-camera views portrayed a world ringed with a fuzzy corona.

The KKC came together in March 2006 after wedding photographer Linda Wan made a remark about toy cameras to Big George's photo department employee Michael Myers, who holds an M.F.A. from Eastern Michigan University. Wan had become inseparable from her all-plastic Holga, a medium-format box camera made in Hong Kong starting in 1982. This cheap device, which costs around $20, features just two aperture settings and two shutter speeds. The plastic lens, being of the "meniscus" or crescent-shaped type,

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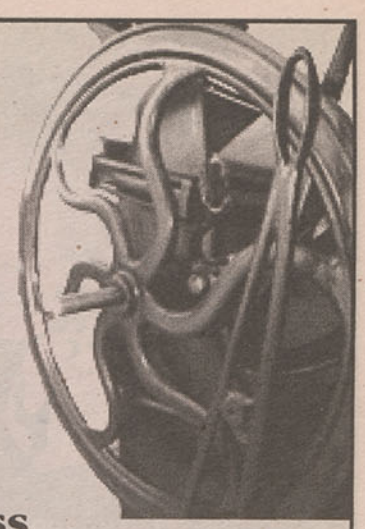

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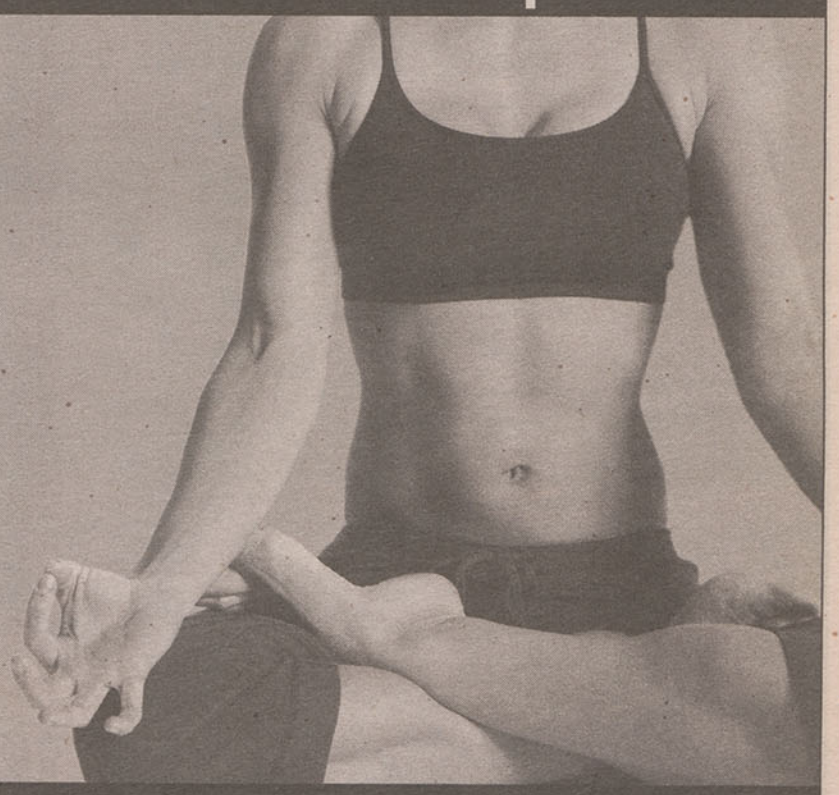

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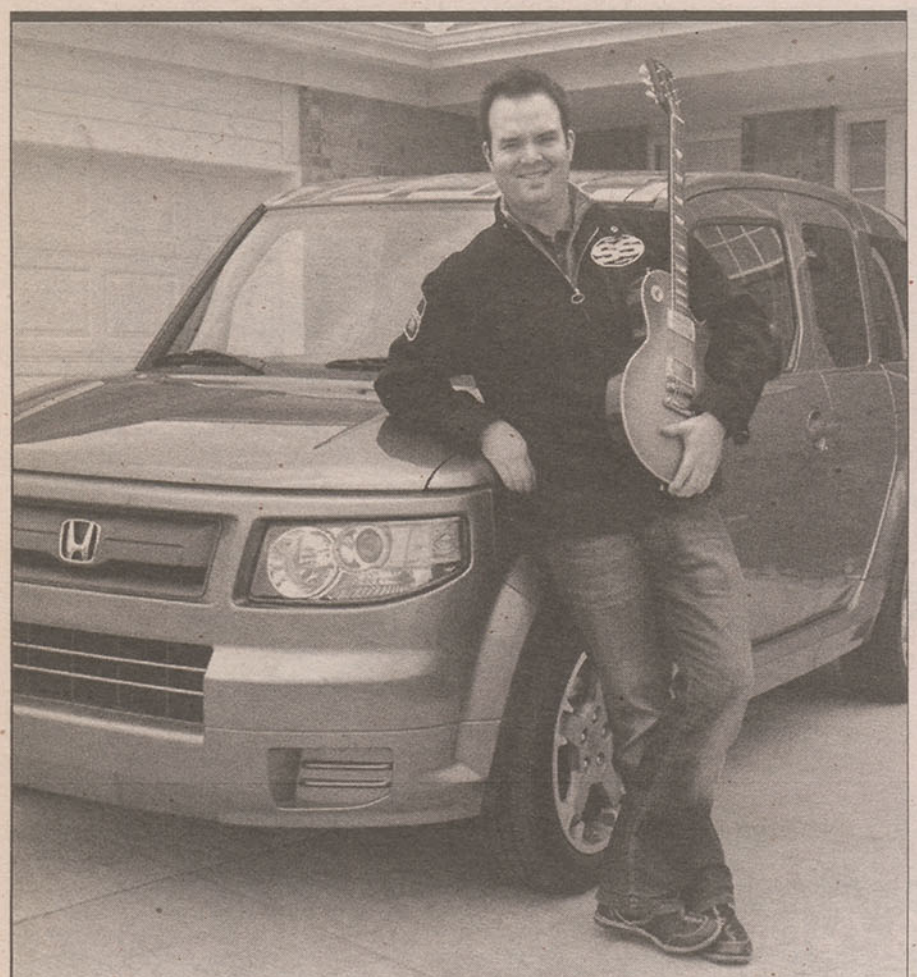

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KKC founders Mike Myers and Linda Wan appreciate toy cameras' low-tech randomness.

LINDA WAN

projects an irregularly circular image, in an effect known as "vignetting." Wan had found the results to be transforming.

Eight people attended KKC's first meeting. As the group doubled in size, its doctrine was refined. "The toy camera aesthetic . . . celebrates the messy unpredictability and dreamlike imagery that only a truly rotten camera can provide," declares the manifesto.

Members put this aesthetic into practice during photo walkabouts, shooting subjects in downtown Ypsilanti and at the Detroit Zoo and tackling such assignments as "What does fall mean to you?" Some have modified cameras by adding tripod sockets and cable releases for long exposures, or used foil to make their own pinhole lenses, allowing for even more tenuous results. As club member Andy Tanguay, a 3-D animator and special effects artist, puts it in the program for *Cheap Shots,* "When you spend a lot of time during your day trying to add randomness to images, getting it for free is a joy."

At the exhibition, just as cofounder Myers was explaining how part of the attraction of shooting with toy cameras lies in being forced to abandon control over results, U-M art prof Dwayne Overmyer popped in for a look and bore witness to the effect. "This is so cool," Overmyer said on the way out. "It's great, refreshing stuff. Sometimes we get caught up in the technology."

The next day there was a workshop on using old cameras. It was rather technical and raised questions about exactly why anyone would bother. But then Paula Morningstar divulged her eager anticipation of Worldwide Pinhole Day, April 29, on the photo-sharing website flickr.com. Unemployed for several months after her call-center sales job was moved to Massachusetts, Morningstar asserts that in her heart she's an artist.

"Nobody else is going to be able to pick up a camera and do what you just did with a Holga or a pinhole—it's unique," Morningstar says. Society emphasizes perfection, but to what end? From her perspective the important thing isn't success but "How'd you spend your time?"

calls & letters

The "ick" factor

We heard from two readers offended by our story on the rise of Brazilian waxing ("Waxing Moon," April). "Have we run out of interesting people, events, and issues in our town that you chose to cover topics with such an 'ick factor'?" one emailed. "Sure, it is a curiosity, but please. It did not seem to merit a multipage write-up, complete with photos and graphic captions." Another, in a voicemail message, summed it up as "clever smut." We regret the offense—but continue to believe the cultural (and generational) shift was worth noting.

More on Bob Seger

Mike Gould's account of playing a 1974 barn dance with Bob Seger (My Town, March) inspired several additional reminiscences from others who remembered the event. Amplifications and corrections include the correct name of the sponsor (Dr. White Post Productions), further details on the visual sabotage of Seger's show, and more on the macaque monkey, including its (offensive) name and the claim that it had formerly belonged to the late Ann Arbor pizza man Faz Husain. Gould has posted the responses at mondodyne.com/a2observer/segerbarndance.shtml.

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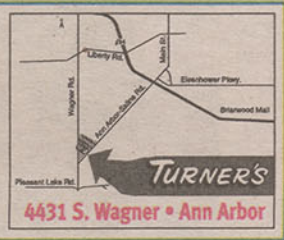

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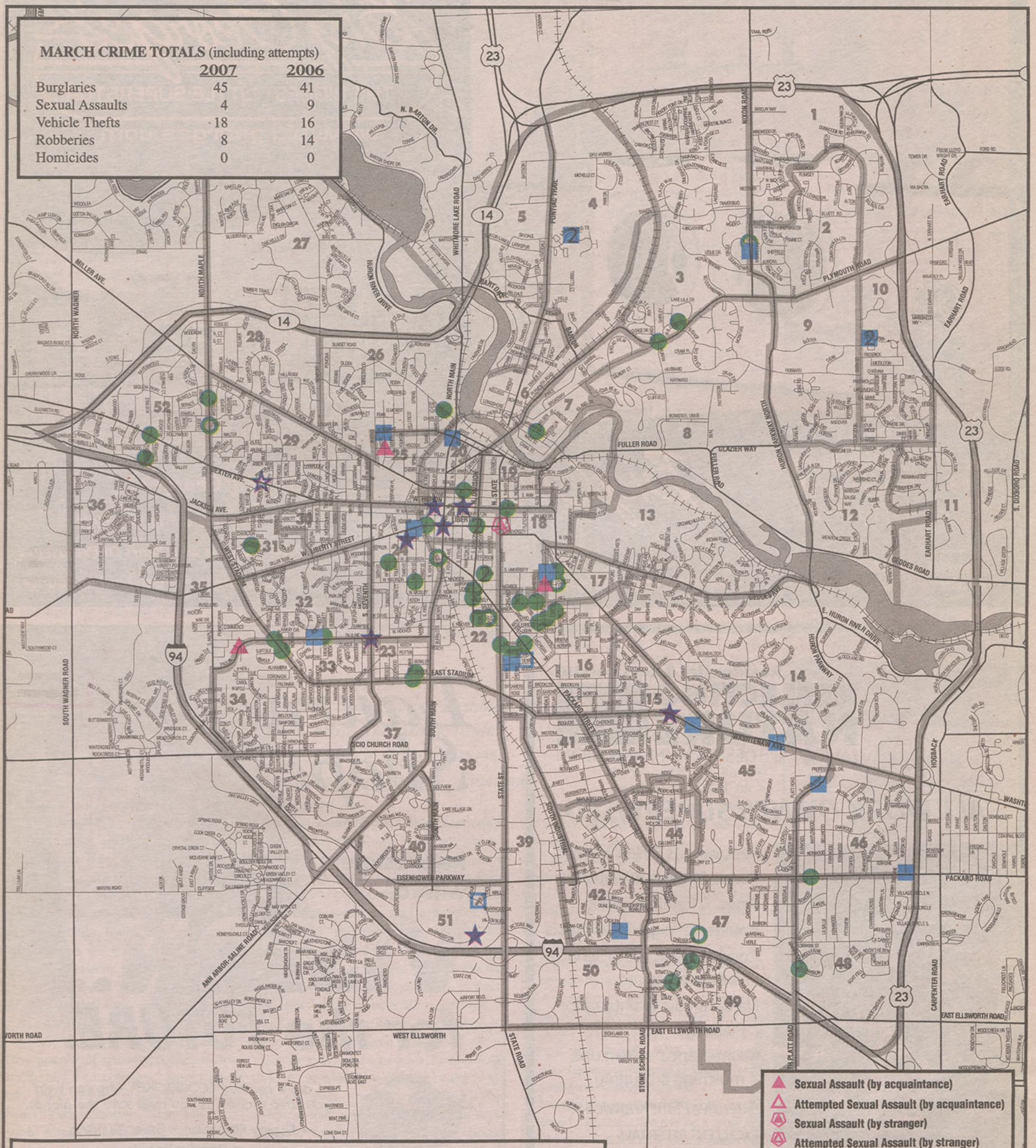
CrimeMap

MARCH CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2007	2006
Burglaries	45	41
Sexual Assaults	4	9
Vehicle Thefts	18	16
Robberies	8	14
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes reported in the city of Ann Arbor and on the University of Michigan campus during **March.** The symbols indicate the location within one block of all homicides, burglaries, vehicle thefts, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Numbers on the map identify neighborhoods. If you have information about a crime, call **Neighborhood Watch at 994–8775** (Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or the **Anonymous 24 Hour Tip Line** at **996–3199**. To report a crime on the U-M campus, call the university's **Department of Public Safety** at **763–1131**, or call their **Anonymous Tip Line** at **(800) 863–1355**.

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Nick Suino

Swordsman, author, lawyer

Swords sheathed at their sides, Nicklaus Suino and five students stare straight ahead in stillness and concentration. Then, moving in silence as a unit, they draw their three-foot-long swords from their scabbards, making a series of slow synchronized movements before gracefully resheathing the weapons. As they move slowly into a kneeling position, they tuck wide pant legs between their knees with a flapping sound reminiscent of wings.

The black *hakama* pants are Japanese. So are the *katanas,* curved single-edge swords traditionally used by samurai. Though he's a native Ann Arborite, Suino is internationally acclaimed for his expertise in *iaido* (ee-EYE-dough), or Zen swordsmanship. The author of *The Art of Japanese Swordsmanship* (now in its ninth printing), he is one of just two Westerners ever invited to compete in the national all-sword-forms tournament in Japan.

The forty-six-year-old swordsman is soft spoken and bespectacled, with hazel eyes and dark, close-cropped hair. His presence enhances the calm in his *dojo* (training hall), the Japanese Martial Arts Center, housed in an industrial building on Airport Boulevard.

MARK BIALEK

The skills Suino teaches contrast sharply with the Hollywood-style swashbuckling familiar to most Americans. Iaido emphasizes cutting down the enemy with precision and economy of motion.

The skills Suino teaches contrast sharply with the Hollywood-style swashbuckling familiar to most Americans. Iaido emphasizes cutting down the enemy with precision and economy of motion. It's primarily a solo endeavor, however—and one with an ancient philosophy behind it. Zen swordsmanship drills, explains Suino, "are designed to assist the student in their ability to perceive truth. By learning to focus on the details of the arts, students sharpen their perceptions. At the same time, through long-term, highly focused practice, they develop a sense of selflessness."

Suino's students refer to him as *sensei* (teacher). "Suino Sensei emphasizes the active practice of sincerity, politeness, loyalty, honor, and courage," says student Amy Prior. On the practical side, adds Demosthenes Lorandos, "he puts us in situations where we have to learn to think on the fly and move quickly—as we might have to in a real situation."

Suino found his passion young. The son of U-M Russian professor Mark Suino and artist Dorothea Suino, he began studying judo at age eight at the Y. He moved on to Asian Martial Arts Studio, where he studied karate, aikido, and several Chinese martial arts. And he earned a footnote in history in 1985 when, as a graduate assistant, he opened a package sent to U-M psychologist Jim McConnell: the package was from the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski, and Suino was seriously injured. He was hospitalized for a night and took six weeks to recover fully. "It was the first moment where I realized my mortality—that I was not impervious," he says.

Suino has more to say about another episode that changed his life's course. Hoping to become a novelist, he earned an M.F.A. in creative writing from the U-M. But his thesis—a novel about a 1980s pop group—was "a miserable book," he says, bluntly. "One of my teachers said, 'If you want to write fiction, you have to throw away your first million words.'"

Instead, lured by the possibility of studying Japanese martial arts in their country of origin, Suino moved to Yokohama. He got a job preparing course materials for English-language classes. Eventually he gained entree into the élite circles of Japanese martial arts, thanks to a letter of introduction from Walter Todd, a highly respected practitioner. "That opened all the doors for me," says Suino, who met masters like Shizuya Sato, director of the International Martial Arts Federation. While in Yokohama, he competed in four regional forms competitions with the sword—and earned the respect of the Japanese martial arts community by placing first in every one of them. Originally intending to stay six months, Suino lived in Japan for four years.

Returning to Michigan, he opened a dojo in East Lansing in 1993, while also writing and giving demonstrations around the country. His route to the dojo took him past the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and Suino became intrigued by the sight of students inside immersed in their textbooks. Over a game of cribbage in Metzger's German Restaurant, "I bet my father that I could be admitted to Cooley by fall of 1995," recalls Suino with a smile. Cooley had a year-and-a-half wait for entrance but made an exception for students with especially strong grade point averages and LSAT scores. After living and breathing the LSAT for a summer, Suino scored in the ninety-fifth percentile on the test—and won five bucks from his father.

After graduation, Suino turned over daily operation of the East Lansing dojo to two senior students and took a job with a Traverse City law firm. But the urge to teach martial arts, coupled with the desire to have his own practice, soon led him back to southeastern Michigan. Last June he opened both the Japanese Martial Arts Center and the Law Office of Nicklaus Suino, PLLC. "Ann Arbor's sort of a perfect place to open a dojo," says Suino. He and his wife, Pamela, who cleans houses for a living and is training in iaido, live in the Georgetown neighborhood.

Suino's law practice centers on services to small businesses. "I try to be a proactive agent for businesses under the premise that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," he says. His practice of law and his mastery of Japanese swordsmanship aren't as far apart as they might appear, he insists. He points out that "strategy, character development, organization, and the ability to visualize the big picture are essential to both endeavors."

—Yma Johnson

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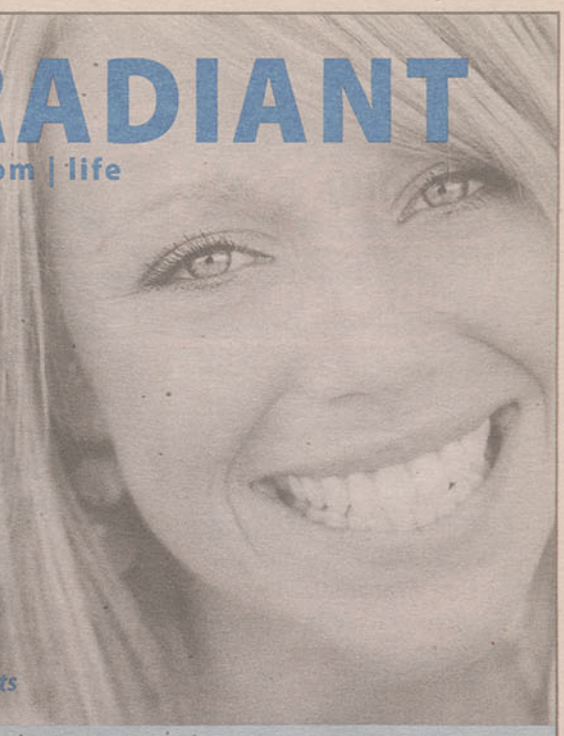

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Roonquest

The mushrooms that bloom in the spring, tra la

A roon and his bounty: Mike Gould with a batch of morels destined to be stuffed, grilled, and sauteed in butter.

Every year around the second or third weekend in May, eager bands of Ann Arborites head upstate in pursuit of morels. The wrinkled, hard-to-find mushrooms grow in our city, but northern Michigan is the real mother lode. So every year my wife, Salli, and I join a group of six or eight "roons," as morel hunters are known, at an undisclosed location up north.

It all started when Salli's friend in Charlevoix, Caron, invited us to go hunting with her family thirteen years ago. We got hooked and haven't missed a year since. Prime morel gathering sites are double-secret mystery spots, so I'll just say that the base for our Roonquest is a campground within easy driving range of our favorite hilly foraging area.

This is camping for grown-ups (although a few kids have made appearances over the years). We sleep in tents, eat on picnic tables under a giant tarp, and bathe using solar showers—big plastic water bags that heat in the sun. Over the years we have weathered temperatures in the nineties, ice in our morning dishwater, and five days of pouring rain. Hey, this is Michigan—Gore-Tex and tarps for rain, jump in the river for hot, wear multiple layers for cold. No problem.

We usually get up at the crack of 8 or 9 (or 10, depending on how badly the bourbon was punished the night before), eat breakfast, and head for the hills. Gathering wild mushrooms to eat can be dangerous—there are many varieties, and some are poisonous—but morels are ideal for novices because they have such a distinctive appearance. The only thing that looks like them (the false morel) is easily discerned and *usually* won't kill you if you eat it by mistake.

We see them in black, gray, and white; the black ones are usually smaller and come out first, followed by the grays and then the whites (if you find only white morels, you know the season is mostly over). When we find one, we cut it off above ground level, leaving the belowground part to (we hope) survive and fruit again in the years to come. We carry our prizes in mesh bags called roon sacks; the mesh allows spores to fall from the morels as we walk the woods, hopefully sowing future crops.

We generally return to camp around noon to sort, count, photograph, and clean our harvest. Cleaning means splitting the morels in two and rinsing them in water to remove the bugs and dirt. Then we dry them with a salad spinner, bag them, and put them in the cooler for dinner.

After lunch, some hit hammocks to read, some nap, some head back to the sites for more pickin' and grinnin'. It all depends on weather, how the 'shrooms are "running," and the various energy levels involved.

Things pick up again at the 5 p.m. happy hour. This involves olives, cheese, wine, nuts, crackers, oysters (smoked and raw), and martinis (Grey Goose, up, garnished with blue cheese, olive, caper berry, or some combination of these). And of course we have our favorite appetizer—morels dredged in dry Drake's batter and sautéed in butter until crisp.

Then the grills are fired and the designated cooks swing into their appointed tasks. Everyone on this expedition brings culinary chops and big boxes of supplies. Caron's husband, Bobby, the consummate hunter-gatherer-fisherman, comes armed with frozen walleye, perch, and venison. He also regularly finds twice as many morels as anyone else. Sometimes you go in the woods and find nothing but morel stumps, and you know Bobby's been by.

Salli likes to make stuffed morels—big white ones stuffed with smaller black ones and crab meat. Bobby cooks oysters Rockefeller on the grill. I cook morel burgers: patties with sautéed morels and onions on top, covered with melted Swiss cheese.

After dinner, dishes (real ones, and metal tableware) are washed with the aid of our new propane-fired water heater. Then the campfire is stoked up and potables appear. Tales are told, songs are sung, toasts are declaimed, and bottles are emptied. By 11 or 12 the crowd is down to a few diehards, and the camp quiets, except for the occasional loon or owl call. Sometimes we make our own owl calls and lure barred owls into camp. Their call goes "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you?"

And at some point, we'll sing a few verses of our camp song, "The Roonquest Rag":

Gather up your roon sacks,
throw 'em in the Jeep;
We're going to the north woods, goin'
pretty deep.
Gonna head for the hills where the fungi's
found,
Gonna hunt 'em by the hundred,
Gonna pick 'em by the pound.
Tromp those woods, get the goods
At the Roonquest pickin' grounds.

Caron copped a dozen; John's got a bunch;
Sherry found a big one just before lunch.
Black ones, white ones, fat or narrow—
Here comes Bobby with a full wheelbarrow.
Climb the path, do the math,
At the Roonquest pickin' grounds.

You can take 'em, you can bake 'em,
You can blend 'em into shakes;
You can fry 'em, you can dry 'em,
You can dredge 'em up in Drake's.
Stuff the black ones in the white ones, cook
'em in a pan—
Let's pack 'em in a walleye, just because
we can.
From the small to the humungous
There's a fungus here among us
At the Roonquest pickin' grounds.

—Mike Gould

PHOTOS MIKE GOULD

Resale mania

From Value World to Trunk-a-Palooza

I blame it on Value World, my recent preoccupation with resale shops. It started in January 2002. I'd just moved back to Ann Arbor and wasn't up on a lot of whos, wheres, and whats of the new, improved city—but when I walked out of the Kmart at Maple Village one day, there stood Value World in all its wonderful unpretentiousness and dust. I don't remem-

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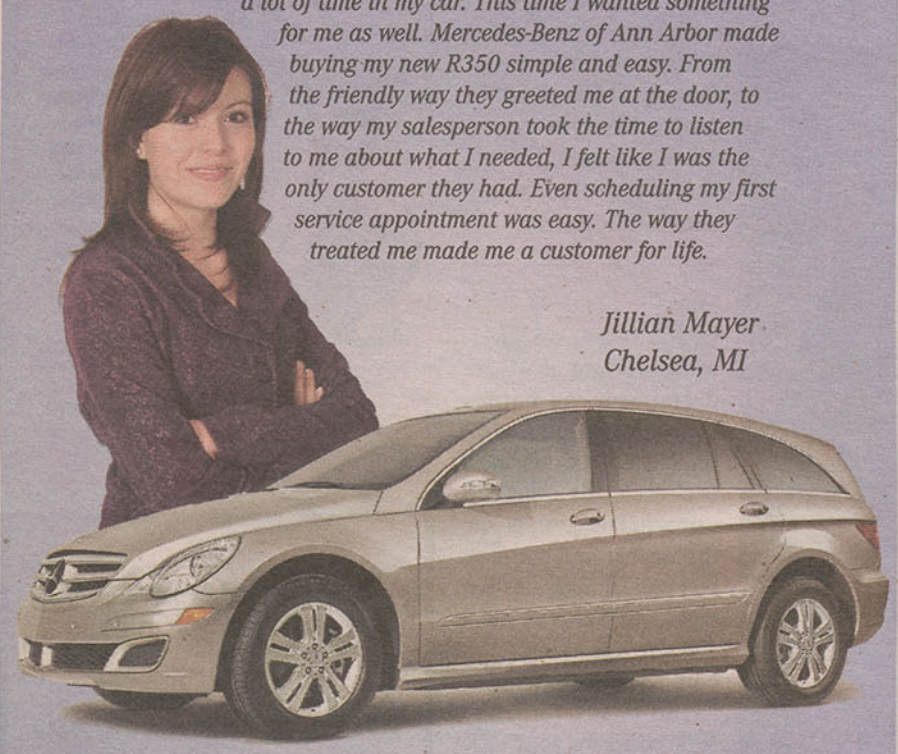

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ber what I bought that day—probably a cotton knit top, a pair of shoes, or a purse. But I do remember thinking that my poverty might be assuaged by the presence of Value World in my life.

My only complaint about Value World is that it doesn't have fitting rooms. Instead, women congregate at the back of the store where the mirrors are. They slip pants up under their skirts and then take the skirts off to see if the pants fit. More than once I've seen women strip to their underwear and then work triple time to get the favored pieces of clothing on their bodies before any errant men show up.

Once I was hip to Value World's existence, it was a small jump to realizing there were lots of secondhand stores in Ann Arbor—many of them run by charities. At the St. Vincent de Paul store on Broadway I found a perfect pair of Etienne Aigner black leather sandals that probably ran about $70 new. They jumped out and made me buy them for the grand price of $6. This past January I hit the PTO Thrift Shop and bought a pair of olive green chino pants, a big purple cable knit sweater, a clear glass butter dish (to go with the clear cut-glass cream and sugar set I got at the Salvation Army Store), and a pair of tan suede shoes in mint condition. I spent a total of $8.

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

Marilyn Moran ponders whether an apple-shaped pot at Value World might fetch a higher price at Trunk-a-Palooza this spring.

Another great thing about Ann Arbor's secondhand stores is that several will sell things for you on consignment—Treasure Mart, Woman in the Shoe, and the Klothes Kloset. I both buy and sell at the Klothes Kloset, a nice upscale women's boutique in Lamp Post Plaza that new owner Patricia Wojtowicz has filled up with pretty crystal jewelry and quality apparel. You pay a bit more at consignment shops, but you get a higher caliber of merchandise.

The Salvation Army got me hooked on reselling my thrift shop finds. I stumbled across what I would come to learn is a Godinger silver-plate trinket box. It was beautiful—about four inches high and across, round, etched with scrolls and ribbons, topped with an etched lid, and lined with red velvet. The price was $3, so I bought it. Then I found that those boxes were selling on eBay for two or three times what I had paid. About the same time, I got a flyer announcing that my apartment complex, Ann Arbor Woods, was going to hold a community yard sale.

I dug into my storage boxes and unearthed a set of six aperitif glasses, thirteen bone china cups and saucers (some are intricately hand painted—lovely! and not for sale), two old mechanical taximeters, a smattering of picture frames, an Albright silver candle snuffer, and a swan candy dish with a clear glass base and long curved neck and head made of red glass. Adding that to all the whatnot I'd bought by resale shopping—itty-bitty purses, Art Deco–looking glass plates, small jewelry boxes—I was set for the yard sale. I made a handful of bucks that day.

Then I got an email from a friend announcing Trunk-a-Palooza, the new monthly flea market that started last fall at the Farmers' Market. My friend Gail and I rented a stall for twenty bucks. I knocked down my prices and we were in business.

I netted about $40 that day, and the mood of the event was upbeat. The guy in the next stall gave me a paperback copy of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai,* which also happens to be my all-time favorite movie. I sold teacups, glasses, silver serving spoons, and jewelry. I spent 50¢ on a copy of *Life* magazine from the week Woodstock happened and $2 for a pink flamingo statuette with a broken neck wrapped in a pink boa.

While Trunk-a-Palooza was down for the winter, I stocked up on cool secondhand stuff to sell in the spring. I'll be back on the fourth Thursday of the month to sell clear thermal drinking cups with pictures of playing cards on them; silver plates and bowls by the International Silver Company and de Uberti; and . . .

—Marilyn Moran

Ashes to dust

Grinding stumps with the LaMont Brothers

My son was born last May, and for his first five months the only thing that would soothe him into a nap was taking a walk. Four, eight, ten times a day, I circled the block with my sobbing baby and excitable dog. Till then I'd never really thought about the silent ranks of ash trees that lined my neighborhood streets. Last summer they became my daily companions.

But with the insatiable westward push of the emerald ash borer, my streets are now lined with ash stumps, their freshly exposed heartwood gleaming white, like blank headstones. During the caesura between the brief October flurries and the mid-January freeze, the hacked stumps were surreptitiously spray-painted with the letters CLR. Curiously, while most of the stumps were marked with CLR in three different colors—red, yellow, and blue, all in the same hand—others were marked in only one or two.

It seemed obvious that CLR meant "clear," but clear of what? And why were some stumps triple cleared while others had only single or double markings? A visit to the city clerk's office got me a blank stare. I was directed to the forestry department, but they didn't know either. The forestry staff suggested I call J&M Tree Service, one of two contractors doing the actual work of removing the ash trees.

MARK BIALEK

The poetically named Vermeer AutoSweep Stump Cutter is a frightful chimera, half bulldozer, half buzz saw.

Dave Oley of J&M explained that the stumps were marked by Miss Dig: a CLR indicates that the vicinity of the stump is free of buried water pipes (blue paint), gas lines (yellow), and electric cables (red). Stumps with all three CLRs (or a combination of CLRs and spray-painted lines and flags marking out the location of the buried cables and pipes) are eligible to be ground down.

A few days later, walking with my son and dog, I happened upon a crew grinding stumps for LaMont Brothers Tree Service (the other contractor the city hired to remove dead ashes). The helmeted operator stood to the right of the machine behind a protective shield so mud-spattered and scored by flying debris that he was obliged to crane around the guard in order to see where the stump grinder was going. The poetically named Vermeer AutoSweep Stump Cutter was a frightful chimera, half bulldozer, half buzz saw: yellow, thrumming atop a set of knobby tires, with a central hinge enabling the machine to sway and dip its vertically mounted blade laterally, like a blind cave centipede feeling for prey. The cutter wheel was a foot and a half in diameter with blunt, curved conical projections along the edge, like the tusks of a boar. Fortunately, my infant son found the throaty roar of a thirty-horsepower, twin-cylinder, four-stroke engine soothing. He slept, his lips pursed and suckling at the dream-breast, as the cutter roared and chewed.

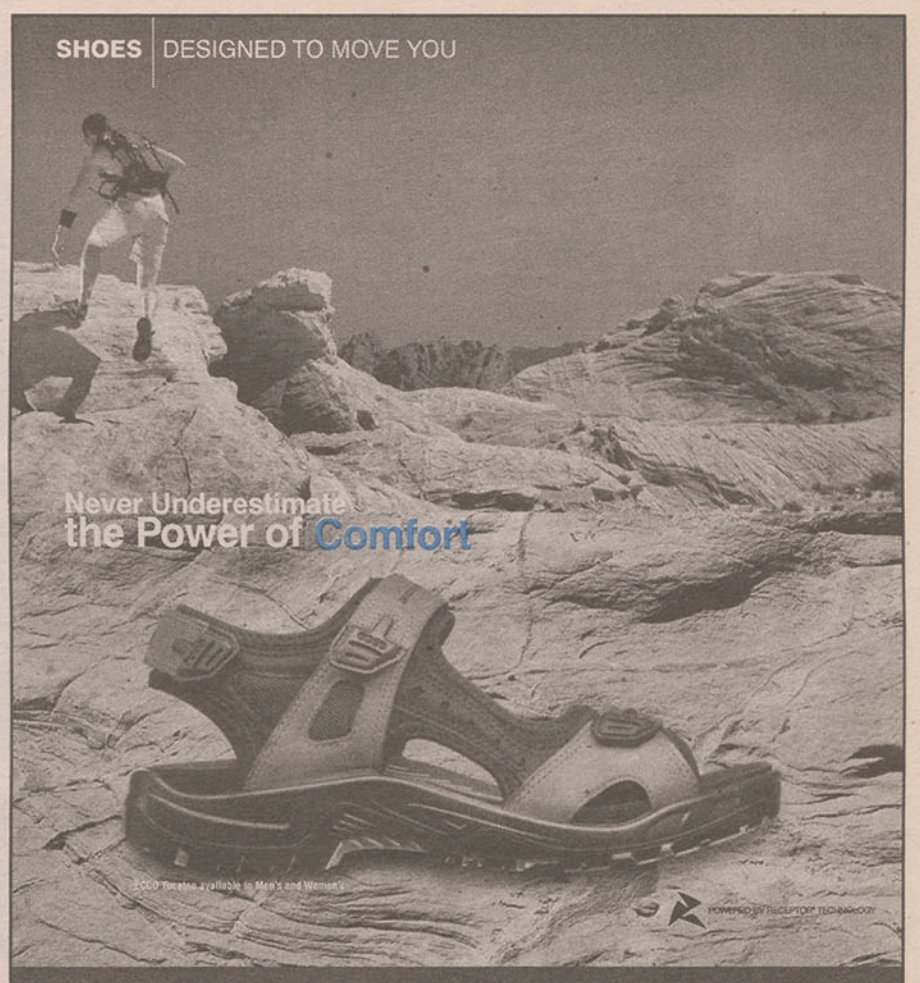
"Ear plugs, and you don't hear much," I was assured by Brad, a small, wiry worker with a gap-toothed smile, his hands buried in the pockets of his thick Carhartt jacket. Brad had been working for LaMont for ten months; they'd been contracted to grind over 1,000 stumps, and he felt as though he'd done most of them himself. My neighborhood alone had 270, which they were chewing through at the rate of thirty per day.

According to Brad, the work is "long, a little tedious, but actually pretty simple. It's just more or less making sure you don't do anything stupid."

Seeing the machine in operation, I understood what he meant and the necessity of the meticulous markings on the stumps: the operator effortlessly steered the spinning blade side to side, and everything in its path (be it sand, clay, roots, somebody's foot, or a buried power line) disappeared, churned into dark, loamy soil, ready for a new sapling next spring.

When they finished, Brad and his partner packed the dirt down, leaving a flat patch of soil with a scattering of tiny wood chips. There was nothing left bigger than my thumb. You might guess that someone had emptied a dustpan there after sweeping a porch, but standing in the silence with the truck and grinder gone, you'd never imagine that the foundation of a fifty-year-old ash tree had been there fifteen minutes earlier.

—David Erik Nelson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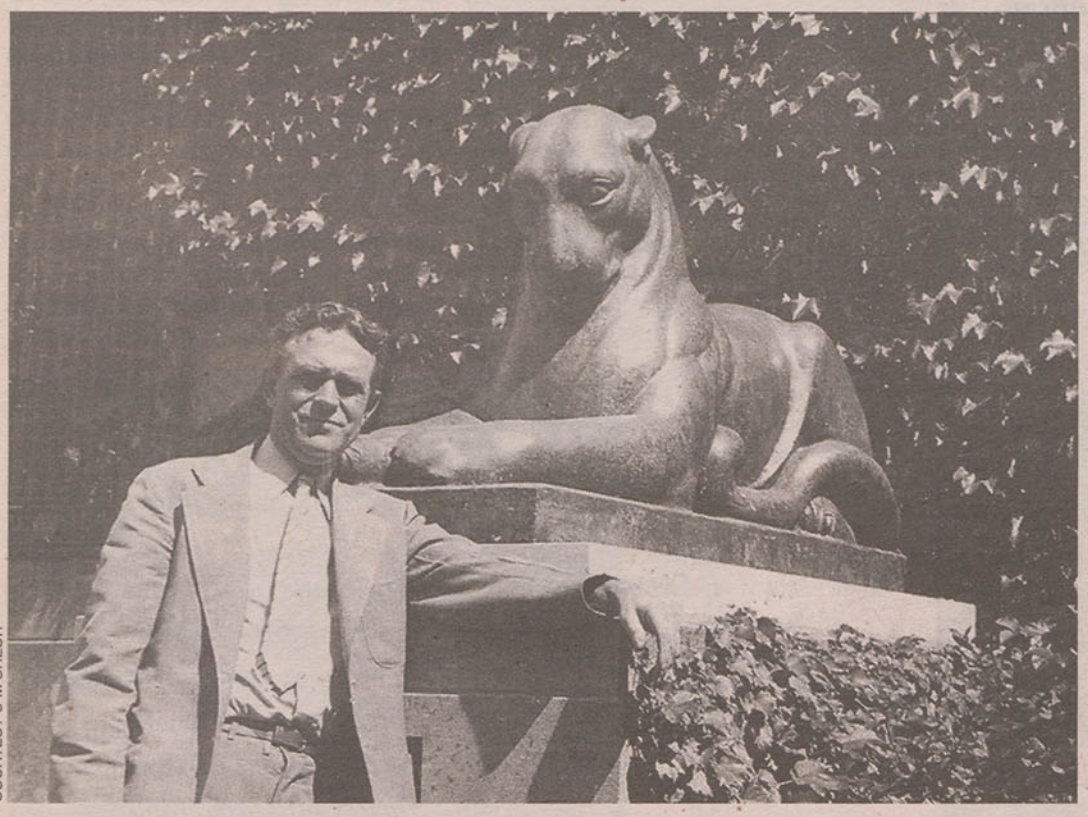

COURTESY U-M CREDIT

Farm-boy-turned-artist Carleton Angell created much of the ornamental detail on the Ruthven Museums Building, including the ornate bronze doors and the bas-relief sculptures on the facade. The two pumas guarding the entrance were the final touch—Angell chose Michigan's native cats instead of the customary lions.

The pumas

Carleton Angell's beloved sculptures return to the Natural History Museum

The two pumas that guarded the Ruthven Museums Building on North University for sixty-six years are missing. Generations of kids had clambered over the stylized black cats, and countless museum visitors had posed for pictures standing in front of them. But last July, a hole was noticed in the head of one of the pumas.

Officials first suspected vandalism. "They've been hit with paintballs. They were once trimmed with masking tape to look like zebras. And they've been painted green (probably in deference to a certain Big Ten rival)," writes museum employee Dan Madaj. But a more careful look made it clear that the real culprit was years of exposure to the elements. The big cats were removed for restoration and replacement—the first time they'd left their perches since museum sculptor Carleton Watson Angell put them there in 1940.

A farm boy from Belding, in west Michigan, Angell overcame great obstacles to build a career as an artist. Born in 1887, he got his first art lessons as a child from a customer on his father's milk route. But then his father died, and his mother moved back to her hometown of Ilion, New York, where Angell worked for seven years to save up for art school. He finally enrolled at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1909, at age twenty-two. Afterward he worked at the American Terra Cotta Company in nearby Crystal Lake, making decorative panels for building facades—but lost that job during an economic downturn. He returned to Ilion, worked in his brother's grocery store, and married Gladys Thayer.

But Angell continued sculpting and drawing, and in 1922, when he was thirty-five, his persistence finally paid off: he got an offer from the U-M to be a half-time instructor at the College of Architecture and Design. By then he and Gladys had three children, so to supplement his income, they ran a boardinghouse at 1438 Washington Heights (about where the new School of Public Health building is today). Their daughter, Jennett Angell Hamilton, remembers watching her dad strip the sheets from the beds and bring them down for her mother to wash.

In 1926 Angell was offered additional work at the U-M Museum of Natural History, which was preparing to move from State Street to North U. Celebrated industrial architect Albert Kahn designed the V-shaped building, but Angell contributed

DAN ERICKSON

Bronze replicas of the pumas were cast at the Fine Arts Sculpture Center in Clarkston. The Venus Bronze Works in Detroit has since added a black finish to match the terrazzo originals.

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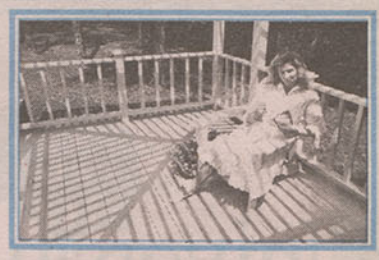

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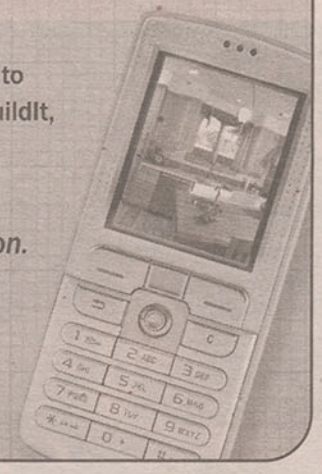

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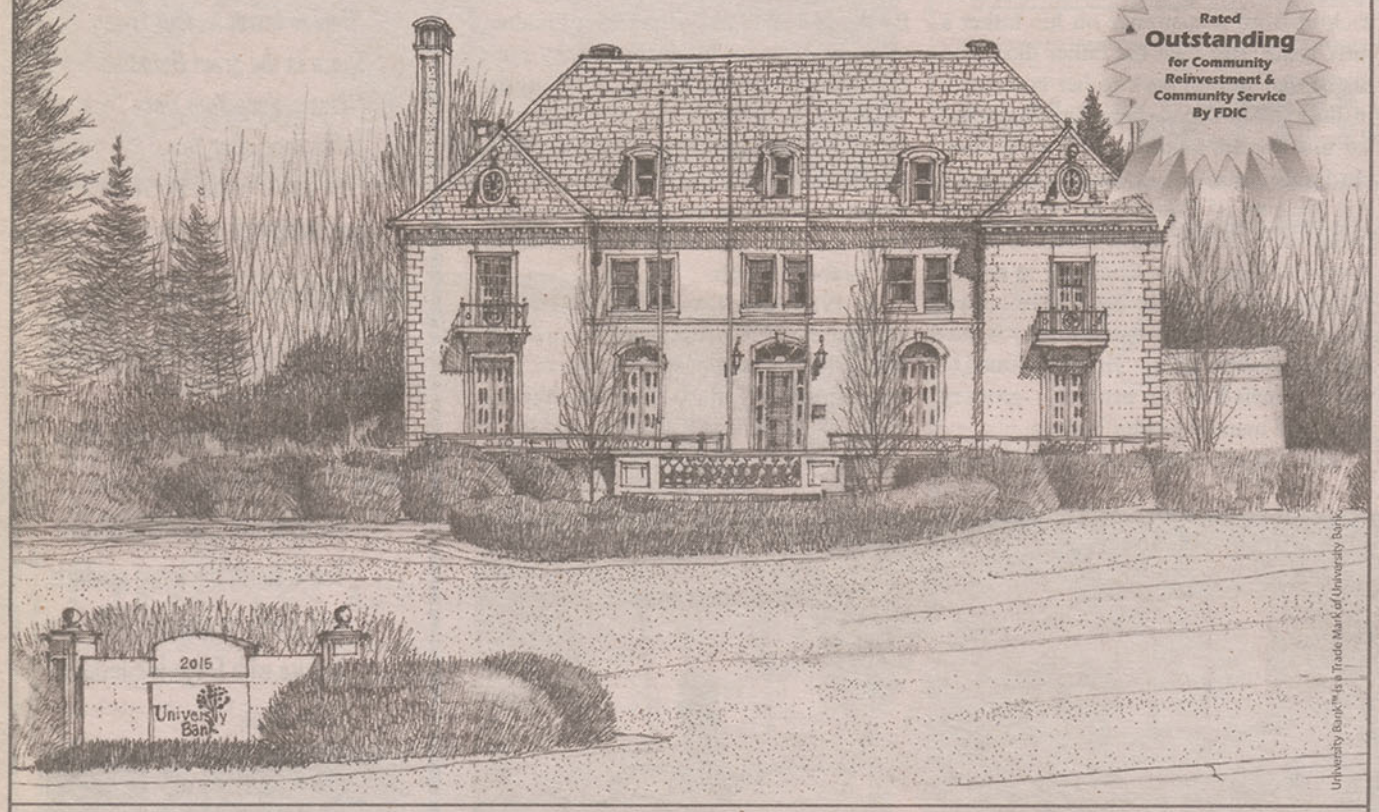

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many decorative details, including the bronze front doors and the limestone bas-reliefs of animals and naturalists on the facade. And even after the building opened in 1928, he continued to produce busts of important people connected with the museum, both living and dead. They were placed in alcoves around the rotunda as he finished them during the 1930s.

The pumas were his last major contribution to the decoration. In an article in the August 17, 1940, *Michigan Alumnus*,

Over the years, the pumas have been "hit with paintballs . . . trimmed with masking tape to look like zebras . . . and painted green (probably in deference to a certain Big Ten rival)," writes museum employee Dan Madaj. But the real danger to the pumas turned out to be years of exposure to the elements.

Angell explained that although lions are often chosen to guard public buildings, he preferred Michigan's native cats. After building scale models to check the proportions, he constructed full-size figures of wood, wire, plaster of Paris, and clay. From these he created plaster molds, which were used to cast the final versions in terrazzo, a stone aggregate. Sixty-six years later, the terrazzo finally began to show its age.

Angell's main job was to make models for dioramas, miniature recreations of natural and historic scenes. He worked with scientists to model extinct animals from fossil skeletons, and with anthropologists to show how people in different cultures lived. He often depicted American Indians, whom he typically showed at work—making pottery, drilling, carrying things.

None of Angell's Indian dioramas are still on display, but it's interesting to wonder how he would have reacted to the recent protest by art students who charged that the museum's current representations of Native Americans are racist. Angell worked hard to create accurate depictions. Jennett Hamilton recalls how the family traveled to a reservation in Missaukee County, where her father spent nine hours sculpting an Ottawa chief named Henri. When the chief died soon afterward, the Angell family went back north for the funeral.

DAN ERICKSON

His work at the museum led to commissions from other university departments, community groups, and individuals. Angell eventually completed hundreds of local projects, including a bronze bas-relief of philanthropist Horace Rackham in the Rackham Building and a plaque at Angell School depicting the school's namesake, U-M president James B. Angell (the two Angells were believed to be distant relatives).

By 1936 Carleton Angell was earning enough that he and his family were able to leave the boardinghouse. They lived at 933 South State Street and 1217 Lutz before building a home at 3125 Hilltop in the early 1950s. Angell created Arborcrest Memorial Park's *Four Chaplains* monument in the family room at the Hilltop home. It depicts four clergymen—two Protestants, a Roman Catholic, and a Jew—who died after giving up their life jackets to others when their ship was torpedoed during World War II. He completed another commission—relief panels for the Washtenaw County Courthouse depicting local life—in the home's garage. Daughter Jennett remembers how when he was done her father enlisted her husband and brothers, along with every other able-bodied relative and friend he could find, to help him deliver the massive artwork.

Angell died in 1962 from a massive heart attack. Though he was seventy-four, granddaughter Barbara Gilson says that his death came as a shock, since he seemed in good health and was by then taking care of Gladys, who had suffered a stroke. Dariel Keeney recalls, "The last thing my grandfather said to me on my last visit to him in the hospital, hours before he died, was 'Take care of your grandmother. She is so precious to me.'"

Since their installation, Angell's pumas have served as symbols of the museum, standing out in all weather. Over the years various small repairs were made, but last July's discovery made it clear that the time had come for a complete overhaul.

This time the museum is taking a two-pronged approach. The Fine Arts Sculpture Centre in Clarkston made molds from the original figures and then cast replicas in bronze. The Venus Bronze Works in Detroit has added a black finish to the bronzes, and also has restored the original terrazzo figures.

The pumas are expected back around the middle of May. The bronze cats will take over the plinths outside the doors, while the terrazzo originals will be placed in a yet-to-be-determined location inside the museum. On June 2, the museum will celebrate their return with a Puma Party, including a display of Carleton Angell's work in the rotunda.

—Grace Shackman

DAN ERICKSON

DAN ERICKSON

After sixty-six years on guard, Angell's orginal pumas were removed for restoration last summer. The bronze replicas will take their place at the entrance, and the originals will be displayed safely inside the museum.

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Stuck in the USA

Christine Fritsch wants to go home to Germany. Yet ten years after she was disabled in a terrible accident, her case is still tied up in an Ann Arbor court.

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Hon. Kirkendall
Please, let my German daughter leave the USA. She hasn't committed any crime. She is only a victim of an insurance fraud and prisoner of a criminal mafia.
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Helicoptered to the U-M after a September 1996 car crash, Christine Fritsch (left) is the subject of the most bizarre and persistent custody litigation Ann Arbor has seen seen the days of "Baby Jessica" DeBoer.

by Lowell Cauffiel

The remote crossroads in St. Clair County looks like the last place on earth for an alleged cabal of police, county officials, insurance adjusters, and small-town folks to hatch a conspiracy with a slew of Ann Arbor lawyers and a Washtenaw judge.

The only things worth slowing down for at the windblown corner of Marine City Highway and Indian Trail Road are a blinking caution light and a country store called Ye Olde Cheese House. Yet even that's enough to make this one of few landmarks on the twelve-mile stretch of road from I-94 to Marine City—two lanes largely bordered by cornfields, wetlands, and woodlots.

At this corner on an early autumn afternoon, exchange student Christine Beate Fritsch was badly injured in a car crash. Airlifted eighty miles to the University of Michigan Hospitals, comatose, her family overseas, the eighteen-year-old Wayne State University sophomore became a ward of the Washtenaw County Probate Court—4,000 miles from her home in northern Germany.

The year was 1996. That's the same year Americans elected Bill Clinton to his second presidential term. It's the year the FBI caught the Unabomber, and *The English Patient* and *Jerry Maguire* were in movie theaters. It has been that long—and Christine Fritsch is still not home.

Instead, Christine, a disabled resident in an Oakland County group home, is the subject of one of the most bizarre and persistent custody litigations Ann Arbor has seen since the days of "Baby Jessica" DeBoer in the early 1990s.

Since 2001, Christine's mother has been trying to wrest control of her daughter from the Washtenaw Probate Court, a contingent of lawyers, and a Grand Blanc engineer named Brian Lynch—the man Christine was dating at the time of her accident. In 2003, though Lynch was not Christine's husband or even her fiancé, former chief probate judge John Kirkendall named him her sole guardian and ordered her kept in America—even as Christine herself repeatedly pleaded from her wheelchair to be returned to Germany.

The costly and complex battle has consumed hundreds of thousands of dollars that otherwise could have gone to provide care for Christine. It also has taken a financial and psychological toll on her mother, Gabriela Fritsch, a sixty-year-old physician from Bad Oeynhausen, a city of 50,000 an hour west of Hannover. The German-speaking cardiovascular specialist takes trans-Atlantic flights to attend probate hearings, while trying to maintain her medical practice to pay costs of attorneys, interpreters, and travel. With still another probate hearing scheduled this June, Fritsch finds the American court system even more baffling than the English language.

"Everything is always postponed and postponed," she says through an interpreter during a telephone interview from her 3,000-square-foot, brown brick home. "I think the objective is to keep postponing it until one of us dies."

While Christine's case has received virtually no American news coverage, that's not for lack of noise from her mother—maybe too much noise. Fritsch has protested outside the Washtenaw County Courthouse carrying a sign that says, "Please, let my German daughter leave the USA." She writes frequent letters, translated into stilted English, to a mailing list that includes newspapers, television stations, legislators, legal grievance boards, governor Jennifer Granholm, and president George W. and Laura Bush.

Fritsch also maintains a bilingual website, which itself became the subject of court proceedings last year. That's because the site, like her letters, reads as if it were written by the paranoid Mel Gibson character in the 1997 film *Conspiracy Theory*. Among the charges: Cover-ups. Document forgery. Accident staging. Murder. Attempted murder. Insurance fraud. And organ harvesting. Fritsch gives none of the key players in her daughter's case any benefit of the doubt at the scathing chris-come-home.com.

Sounds like "so"

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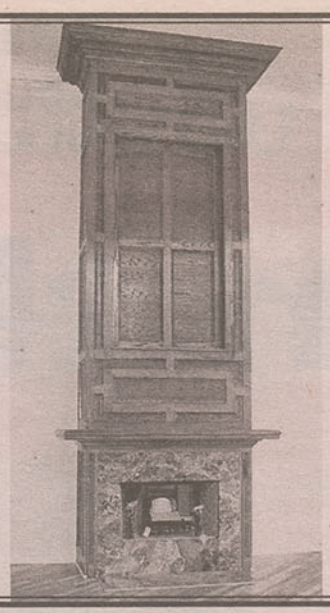

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Stuck in the USA

continued

Still, German television and a leading German newsmagazine have covered the controversy. The story hits all the sensational beats: A bright and beautiful girl disabled in a foreign land. A mother unable to free her only daughter because of a covetous former boyfriend and the American courts. Money allegedly missing from mysterious insurance policies.

However, in Ann Arbor, in a city with a reputation for caring for the helpless, Fritsch has been unable to marshal any public outrage or support.

"Think about it," says her Ann Arbor attorney, Paul DeCailly. "If the reverse were true, and this was an American student in Germany, all hell would be breaking loose."

So why isn't Chris home?

Her guardian and former boyfriend, Brian Lynch, refuses to comment. His Ann Arbor attorney, Constance Jones, says, "Brian doesn't think it's in Christine's best interest to discuss the case in the media."

"Christine is being held hostage here," says attorney DeCailly. "Make no mistake about it, if it wouldn't be for the insurance money involved, everyone would have packed Chris and her respirator up a long time ago and put her on a plane."

"How can I get justice?" asks her mother. "Where is the justice in this American legal system we hear so much about? It's only on paper, I think."

A lot of very expensive paper, in fact.

It's difficult to determine exactly what life is like for Christine Fritsch these days, beyond the fact that she lives in a four-bedroom group home in a quiet neighborhood in Troy. Judge Kirkendall's sweeping 2003 order in the Fritsch case specifically banned any media contact, and restricted visits by her own mother as well after she showed up with a TV news crew.

However, court records, hearing testimony, and letters from staff show Christine has made considerable progress since a helicopter delivered her to the U-M Hospitals more than ten years ago. She is conscious, uses a wheelchair, and communicates through a DynaVox, the same speech-generating device used by the renowned physicist Stephen Hawking. She carries on conversations and goes on short field trips, but she still needs assistance with eating and other basic tasks.

Christine suffered a closed head injury in the 1996 crash. "She's very concrete in her thinking," her speech therapist testified in a 2001 probate hearing. "She lives for the moment [but] is not able to look at the broader picture, or how her actions impact other things. Her memory skills for day-to-day activities are significantly impaired. She has difficulty remembering and understanding a conversation if it gets too long."

However, since at least 2001, Christine has been very concrete about one request. Though the DynaVox, she has repeatedly asked her caregivers to "fly me back to Germany" and "fly me home."

In 1994, Christine was passionate about flying the other way.

A talented student fluent in English as well as Romanian, her mother's native tongue, she applied to become an exchange student in the United States for her senior year in high school.

"It was a fashionable trend to go abroad and have some experience in other schools," Gabriela Fritsch recalls. "My daughter had the same wish and I agreed to it. And I supported it because of the skills and life enhancement. We saw it all as a positive life experience."

Christine's placement at Cardinal Mooney High School in Marine City was a dream come true. The community of 5,000 along the shores of the St. Clair River is picturesque small-town America. Quaint shops dot its business district. The sounds of foghorns and rumbling engines from passing lake freighters create a soothing ambience that extends into its tree-lined residential blocks.

(Above) Snapshots of Christine in a clip from a German TV show. Almost invisible in the U.S. media, the litigation has generated extensive coverage in Germany. (Left) Christine with her mother, Gabriela Fritsch, and Gabriela's boyfriend, Mihai Ruhmann. Ruhmann's disruptive behavior became an issue in the case, with Christine's guardian arguing the couple "posed a danger" to the girl.

Christine's host parents, Dr. Paul and Marie (Masha) Treusch, lived in a towering Victorian on Main Street a block from the river. Paul, who died in 2001, was a family practitioner. Masha taught in the local Catholic schools. The couple and their two teenage boys had hosted an exchange student before. Christine moved into a first-floor bedroom.

"Christine was an excellent student," Gabriela Fritsch recalls. "She had interests and talent in the area of art, especially drawing. She had made drawings with chalk and ink and oil. She loved to read. She also had athletic interests. She liked horseback riding. In the USA, she was busy doing track and field."

What started out as a one-year exchange translated into a more ambitious goal after Christine graduated from Cardinal Mooney. "She said she wanted to come back and try to get into Wayne State, where my late husband got his medical degree," recalls Masha Treusch-Pelzer, now remarried. "And I was glad to have her."

"Even as a child she had a very human touch," Christine's mother recalls. "And she understood my own profession. When I had to work night shift and the neighbors even felt sorry for her that she was without a mother, she would say, 'It doesn't matter. My mom is helping people get healthy again.' Christine wanted to help people."

In the summer of 1995 Christine again moved in with the Treusch family. She enrolled at St. Clair County Community College and by the spring of 1996 had accumulated forty-four credits with a 3.8 grade point average. Wayne State accepted her into its premed program for the fall quarter.

The community college also had brought romance. She met Brian Lynch, then a twenty-one-year-old student there. The two began dating. Lynch became deeply devoted to the beautiful brown-eyed girl from Europe, say Treusch-Pelzer and others. In 1996 he flew to Germany to visit her on her eighteenth birthday and meet her mother.

"They celebrated her birthday in a small restaurant here," Fritsch recalls. "And then I paid for a trip to Paris for them for three or four days."

Says Treusch-Pelzer, "Brian was a nice kid. They were in love—but it was still early on in the relationship."

The relationship was dramatically redefined on September 30, 1996. Christine and Lynch had been dating for eleven months the day Christine decided to carpool to WSU in Detroit in a car driven by Jeremy Manion, another young Wayne

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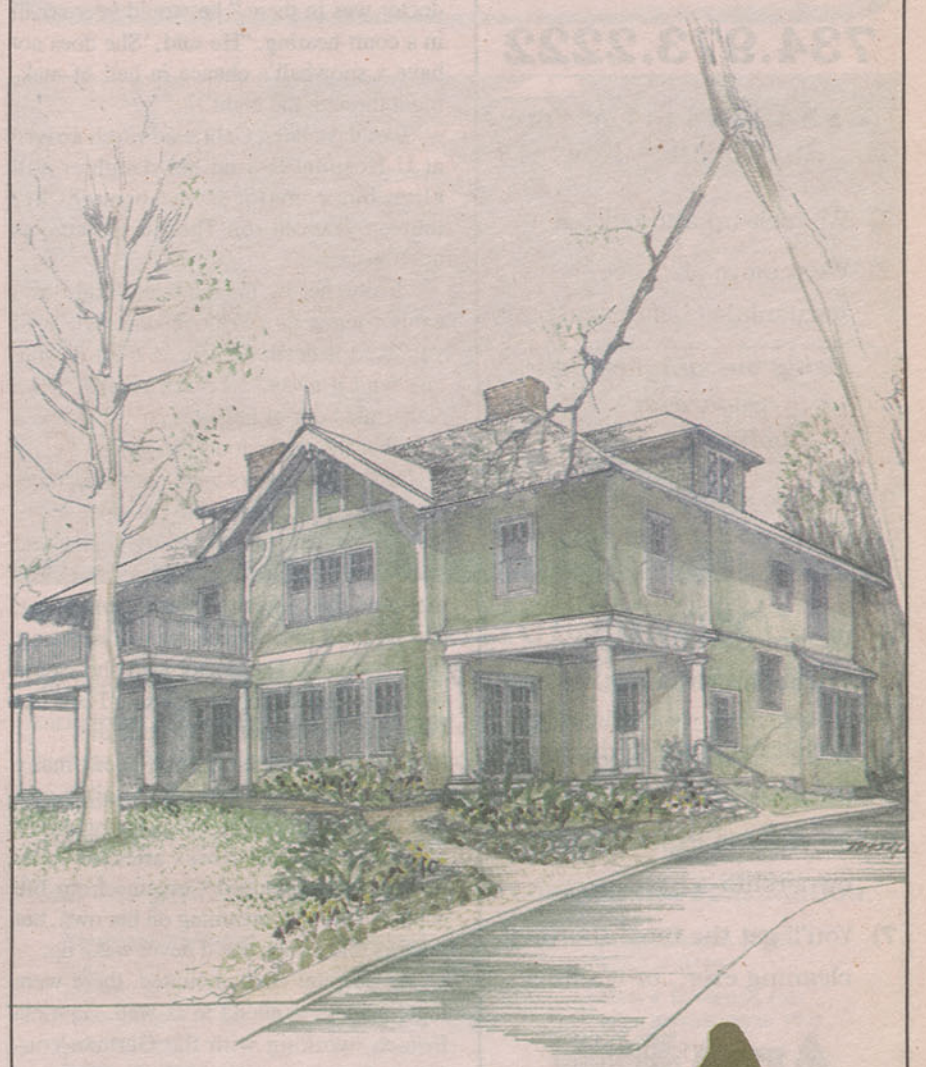

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Stuck in the USA

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State student who lived across the street from the Treusches.

As they returned late that afternoon, Manion's red Grand Am approached the intersection of Indian Trail Road and Marine City Highway under a clear blue sky. Suddenly, a pickup truck ran the stop sign at Indian Trail and crossed the highway in front of them. Manion swerved around the truck, lost control, and slid sideways. An oncoming car smashed into the passenger door.

An ambulance rushed Christine, unconscious, to the small St. John River District Hospital nearby. She'd suffered head injuries, a crushed pelvis, and perforated lungs. When Masha Treusch reached the hospital, doctors took her to the chapel and told her Christine needed to be airlifted to the U-M's trauma unit, and even then might die.

Brian Lynch showed up soon afterward. "When I walked into the room, the doctor was in there," he would later recall in a court hearing. "He said, 'She does not have a snowball's chance in hell of making it through the night.' "

Two days later, Gabriela Fritsch arrived at U Hospital to find her daughter still alive but comatose. She brought her thirteen-year-old son Thomas to serve as her translator.

"I took her by the hand and said, 'You cannot leave us. We love you. We need you. And if death is there in front of you, just send it away,' " Fritsch recalls. "Two tears rolled out of her eyes, and that was a sign that she understood me."

Fritsch says others were not so positive.

"Masha Treusch tried to convince me to let the daughter die. She came to me and said, 'You have another child; let this child die.' And then a neurosurgeon came to me, and he tried to convince me to disconnect the machinery. The doctor said she would be badly handicapped. I said, 'I am not God, and you cannot let the child die.' "

Fritsch and Brian Lynch spent many hours at Christine's bedside. At night, she and Thomas stayed at Lynch's Ann Arbor apartment. Several weeks after the accident, doctors removed Christine from life support. She was breathing on her own, but doctors told Lynch she'd never wake up.

As hospital costs mounted, there were legal matters to attend to as well. Gabriela Fritsch, working with the German consulate, found a personal injury attorney to address the accident's liability and insurance issues. Before any legal action could be taken on Christine's behalf, however, a court had to appoint a guardian and a conservator for her. A month after the accident, the Washtenaw County Probate Court appointed Dr. Fritsch to those roles.

At her daughter's bedside, she started reading Brothers Grimm fairy tales, lent to her by a hospital nurse. One day, Christine's eyes opened.

"I had the first eye contact with her," her mother recalls. "And I could see that she was following a show on TV and had awareness. And she could understand me. We started communicating with eye contact—one blink for yes and two blinks for no."

Christine was transferred to a head injury rehabilitation unit at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital for two months and then to a Special Tree Rehabilitation System facility in Romulus that her mother picked out. Around Christmas Dr. Fritsch took her son back to Germany; she returned to Michigan alone for the first two months of 1997.

According to probate court testimony, Christine's family and caregivers were all working together. Lynch took German classes at the U-M and drove Christine's mother to appointments with attorneys and rehabilitation staff. But as spring approached, Dr. Fritsch had to return to her medical practice to pay for mounting expenses. Her daughter's condition was still fragile. She decided to let Special Tree continue with Christine's rehabilitation rather than fly her home.

The legal war began over another woman. A 2001 probate court hearing revealed a rumor that Brian Lynch, Christine's former boyfriend and her legal coguardian, was romantically involved with her nurse.

"At the beginning of this process Brian Lynch told me that it's better to leave her there," she recalls. "He kept saying, 'She'll get better medical care.' "

From Germany, Fritsch called her daughter at least three times a week. She says they developed a system for communicating: one breath for yes, two breaths for no. Lynch, meanwhile, visited Christine daily, missing only four days in the next five years, according to his court testimony. After moving to Grand Blanc he spent three hours a day on the road, says one family member, driving back and forth to Romulus and an engineering job he eventually took in Pontiac for General Motors.

As part of the probate process, the court also appointed Ann Arbor attorney Sharbyn Pleban as Christine's guardian ad litem, her representative in legal proceedings. There were questions about the safety of the intersection where Christine's accident occurred. At Pleban and Lynch's suggestion, Gabriela Fritsch says, she switched to Bloomfield Hills attorney George Googasian to pursue her daughter's personal injury case.

Googasian filed a lawsuit against the St. Clair County Road Commission, alleging the commission had failed to improve an intersection that was known to be dangerous. A dozen accidents had occurred in 1995 and 1996 at the corner because of its bad sight lines.

Back at work in Germany, Dr. Fritsch was able to come to the States only twice in 1998. She decided she needed someone in Michigan with authority to sign legal documents and deal with any medical emergencies that might arise, so she petitioned the court to have Lynch named coguardian and conservator of Christine's estate.

Up against governmental immunity and other legal issues, Googasian eventually settled the lawsuit against the road commission in 1999 for $300,000, taking a third of that as his contingency fee.

By the summer of 2000, Gabriela Fritsch says, she was pleased with the job Special Tree was doing in her daughter's long and slow recovery. Christine no longer needed a feeding tube and was communicating with the DynaVox. State Farm Insurance, Christine's auto policy carrier, was covering her medical costs, which by 2001 would reach $1.6 million. She also had more than $400,000 on deposit in her trust account.

An American safety net was in place—until Christine Fritsch, almost three years into her rehabilitation, began typing "Take me home."

The legal war began over another woman. In the summer of 2000, Dr. Fritsch and Special Tree staff noticed Christine had sunk into a depression. While one caseworker attributed it to Christine's increasing knowledge of her mental and physical limitations, a 2001 probate court hearing also revealed a scandalous rumor spreading through Special Tree: Brian Lynch was romantically involved with Christine's nurse.

Fritsch testified that two of her daughter's therapists told her that her daughter was depressed because not only was Lynch having an affair with the nurse, she'd also moved into his apartment. Christine's case manager, Donna Cantor, also testified to the rumors, but said she was never able to ascertain if they were true. Lynch never addressed the allegation in the hearing.

But for Christine, they apparently rang true.

"Christine was typing a lot of messages in the DynaVox indicating there was a relationship between [the nurse] and Mr. Lynch," Cantor told the court. "Christine was not eating well. She was indicating that she needed to be thin for Brian."

One night, Cantor found her in tears in her room, typing, "I need my parents."

Christine typed messages to her mother on her next visit. She confided that Brian was seeing another woman. She typed, "Take me home. . . . Here I am totally alone."

Fritsch told Brian Lynch she would be arranging to transfer Christine to a German clinic and then flew back to Germany. But when she returned to Michigan in the early summer of 2001 to initiate the move, she was met with a paper storm of motions by Lynch and guardian ad litem Sharbyn Pleban, says attorney DeCailly.

My German daughter was injured seriously by American elitist criminals.
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Please, let my Ge

Frustrated in her attempt to bring her daughter back to Germany, Gabriela Fritsch became convinced a massive conspiracy was under way. Her website accuses almost everyone who's touched the case.

They wanted court orders to prevent any change in Christine's residence and to freeze the assets in her trust account.

Both finance and romance became issues, later testimony revealed. Fritsch was alarmed by Lynch's failure to send her Christine's bank statements. She also felt Lynch and attorney George Googasian had pressured her into accepting the $300,000 settlement. Lynch had driven her to the firm for the settlement meeting. Googasian told her if they went to trial they could very well lose the case.

"They had given me a document called a release, and I didn't have a dictionary with me and didn't know what it meant," she recalls. "There was no interpreter with me—only three other lawyers and Brian, who did not speak good German. They kept me there for three hours and put extreme psychological pressure on me. I wanted to call the consulate, and they said this was a rush matter. I didn't have any time left. And the next day was my flight back to Germany."

When Fritsch returned to Ann Arbor in June 2001 to attend to the legal issues and see her daughter, she was accompanied by her own boyfriend—an abdominal surgeon named Mihai Ruhmann. By all accounts in court testimony, Dr. Ruhmann created quite a stir on behalf of Dr. Fritsch. The couple showed up at the Googasian firm and accused staff of mishandling the lawsuit. They demanded Christine's entire case file. The firm copied three boxes of material for them—but a staffer also called police to defuse the rancor.

The aggressive behavior continued at Special Tree in Romulus. Ruhmann confronted Brian Lynch about the bank statements. He disrupted a staff meeting, demanding to know details about State Farm's insurance payments. The couple took Christine on a long field trip to a mall and returned her exhausted. They also gave her water, prohibited in her feeding instructions because of her difficulty swallowing.

"When I brought up the issue of water and that Chris is not allowed to have it, [Dr. Ruhmann] responded that it's been almost five years and she should be able to walk and talk and eat by now," Lynch testified.

Fritsch says she involved Ruhmann because she felt attorneys were not taking her requests seriously. "I've known Dr. Ruhmann for seven years. He's also a colleague of mine. I assumed if I had somebody with me from the beginning, certain things might not have happened. I think if there is a male person with you, or a second person, they treat you differently."

The personal and legal disputes became the subject of a two-day hearing before Judge Kirkendall in August 2001. Brian Lynch now was seeking a permanent order to have Christine remain in America. His request would begin an eighteen-month battle of filings and hearings; a German probate judge would fly to Ann Arbor to hear testimony in preparation for Christine's possible return to her homeland.

The August hearing was pivotal. Attorneys called the principal parties and staff from Special Tree. Gabriela Fritsch detailed plans for her daughter's care back in Germany. Judge Kirkendall heard testimony about the rumored affair and Christine's depression and her desire to return to her home.

But Lynch's attorney Constance Jones also introduced Ruhmann's disruptive behavior two months earlier and another incident in which the couple tried to feed Christine cut-up strawberries. Lynch argued that Christine's return to Germany "was not in her best interest." Fritsch and Ruhmann "posed a danger," he claimed, and he predicted her mother would not visit her daily as he did. He swore he would look after Christine "forever."

"Two days before her accident we talked about getting married," he told the court. "And I still love Chris very, very much."

Not until February 2003 did Judge Kirkendall issue his final order on the dispute. He ordered Christine transferred from Romulus to the Special Tree group home in Troy. He appointed Brian Lynch

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her sole guardian. He upheld Dr. Fritsch's right to visit her daughter but said she had to notify Lynch of her visits in advance. Christine Fritsch, he ruled, "shall remain in the United States."

Two months later, Judge Kirkendall wrote in another order that he would not consider transferring Christine to Germany unless her mother presented a detailed plan for treatment back home on a par with the care she was receiving in the States. "Christine is presently thriving and receiving world-class care," he wrote. "She is in a fragile condition. Any momentous move could have unfortunate consequences."

Gabriela Fritsch's current attorney, Paul DeCailly, maintains the order was off base. His client, he says, has consistently met the burden of arranging top-rate care plans for Christine at several clinics in her hometown.

"Judge Kirkendall claimed the medical technology was so much better here in America," says DeCailly. "All he had to do was walk through a medical ward here and see that much of the equipment is made by Siemens. That's a German company!"

Rocked by her removal as the guardian of her own daughter, and reading through three boxes of legal papers from the Googasian lawsuit, Fritsch became convinced a massive conspiracy was under way. Her suspicions only deepened when the Michigan Supreme Court removed Judge Kirkendall as chief probate judge in 2004 over the handling of other conservatorship cases, including the misappropriation of funds in trust accounts. A year later, he resigned from the bench.

In October 2004, Fritsch launched her website—blasting a growing list of alleged conspirators she calls "the Googasian gang."

At the top are "criminal defrauders" Brian Lynch and exchange host Masha Treusch-Pelzer. In her research, Fritsch discovered Christine took out medical insurance with Wayne State and named the Treusch family her death beneficiaries. She decided her daughter's signature on the application was forged. She also learned her daughter had an organ donor card. What appeared to be a tragic accident, she charges on the site, was a staged collision to harvest Christine's organs, collect on her Wayne State policy, and steal her State Farm proceeds.

Fritsch has since posted her allegations on other German and American legal watchdog websites. She's also made similar claims in emails to Marine City businesses and residents, says Treusch-Pelzer. The website even contends Dr. Paul Treusch's suicide in 2001 was really a murder to cover up the conspiracy. Treusch-Pelzer says she thought of suing for slander but decided the international litigation would be too costly. Most people, she says, ignore the allegations because they're so outrageous.

"I have no idea why Chris put me as a beneficiary on her insurance," she says. "Chris was in a horrible, horrible accident. It affected a lot of lives. But now Frau Fritsch is attacking the very people who tried to help her. I don't know where she's coming up with all this crazy stuff."

Fritsch's website tars almost everyone who's touched her daughter's case—besides Lynch, Treusch-Pelzer, and Googasian, her list of alleged conspirators includes the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and Road Commission, experts who gave evidence in her daughter's lawsuit, Lynch's attorney Constance Jones, former guardian ad litem Sharbyn Pleban, former Judge Kirkendall, and current probate judge Darlene O'Brien. Fritsch even attacks her own former probate attorney, Andrew Bemish, and a German vice-consul who tried to assist her. (Kirkendall and Googasian did not respond to requests to discuss the website and the case.)

"Chris was in a horrible, horrible accident," says her former host mother, Masha Treusch-Pelzer. "It affected a lot of lives. But now Frau Fritsch is attacking the very people who tried to help her. I don't know where she's coming up with all this crazy stuff."

In May 2006 the website itself became a legal issue when Brian Lynch asked the probate court to order Fritsch to remove it and ban her from visiting her daughter at Special Tree. DeCailly responded with a brief arguing that "the motion before the Court is about [Lynch's] exercising power and control of women, and little to do with [Christine's] treatment."

DeCailly prevailed. Judge O'Brien not only left the website and visitation rights intact but also replaced Lynch with an independent guardian, ordered an accounting of the estate, and told attorneys she is determined to resolve the case, using mediation and other measures as needed. Currently, the Christine Fritsch docket report alone runs thirty pages and contains 572 entries.

Gabriela Fritsch's fixation on what she sees as a fraudulent American legal system even caused DeCailly himself to withdraw from the case for several months last year. But the attorney argues that her allegations should be seen not as the rants of a paranoid conspiracy theorist but as evidence of the heartbreak and desperation of a mother trying to cope with a language barrier, unanswered questions, and years of decisions by a foreign legal system that to her make no sense.

"Dr. Fritsch is not a nut," says the attorney. "This case is *making* her nuts."

Fritsch charges, for example, that more than $1 million in payments on the Wayne State and State Farm insurance policies has been stolen by "the Googasian gang." A reading of both policies suggests that the German physician, despite her extensive European education, is misinterpreting their coverage. But DeCailly says he, too, has had trouble getting documents from insurers. Wayne State's insurance carrier claims Christine was never insured, though DeCailly has a copy of Christine's original, signed application marked as paid. Delays and missing documents only fuel Fritsch's fears, he says. He notes that as a young woman, his client escaped to Germany from her native Romania—a country then under an oppressive communist dictatorship.

"The moment you start telling Dr. Fritsch nothing can be done about something, it gets adversarial very quick with her," DeCailly says. "She demands perfection. It's a cultural thing, I think."

On the phone from Germany, Fritsch cries as she vows to never give up. "What keeps me going—I believe in God. I still hope in justice. I still hope that one good person will come forth one day and will solve this case," she says. "I'm a humanitarian, and I believe humanity will come out in someone one day."

Ironically, relief may come from one of the very Ann Arbor judges she assails on her web page. In December, Judge O'Brien ordered a new guardian ad litem to begin coordinating plans to move Christine and her estate to Germany, in preparation for another review hearing scheduled for this June.

"Dr. Fritsch is not a nut," says attorney Paul DeCailly. "This case is *making* her nuts."

But Fritsch says she's "lost faith in this court." And DeCailly says he may not wait till June. He's considering filing a writ of habeas corpus in federal court, asking for judicial determination of the legality of Christine's custody by Michigan officials. Christine is a German citizen and an illegal alien; her student visa expired in 2000.

Lynch has no legal claim on his former girlfriend, the attorney says. "This touchy-feely stuff that Brian Lynch loves her is just a bunch of crap. Just because he fell in love with a great girl but got cheated out of a life by her accident—well, *tough*. Elián González, the little Cuban boy that escaped to Miami—everybody loved him, too. But the INS came and got him and he had to go, because his dad wanted him in Cuba."

In December, Judge O'Brien also released an accounting of Christine's funds. She found "there had been no wrongdoing" by Brian Lynch in his handling of the estate and ruled that allegations of inappropriate taking of other money by other people "were not substantiated."

However, bills run up during the court fight have drained half of Christine's estate, says DeCailly. She had $408,000 in 2001, he says, but in the two-year period ending in May 2003, the court approved more than $200,000 in attorney fees for hearings, motions, and reports. Among those paid: Lynch's attorney Constance Jones, $25,805; Fritsch's first attorney, Andrew Bemish, $69,785; and Sharbyn Pleban, Christine's guardian ad litem, $86,000.

Attorney Jones blames some of the costs and bad will on Fritsch. "Because of a lot of legal issues, some of them as a result of representation by Dr. Fritsch and other parties involved, a lot of Christine's resources have been diminished," she says.

But DeCailly calls some of the fees excessive, saying that if he had been representing her at the time, he wouldn't have let her estate pay them. According to Gabriela Fritsch, Pleban was in her fifth year as guardian ad litem when she first met with Christine. Special Tree director Kim Robert Swartz wrote to Judge O'Brien in July 2006 that Pleban's successor never visited Christine's group home at all. The judge has since named a new guardian ad litem.

"That estate money should be used for Christine's trips, her general welfare, and her medical [costs]," says DeCailly. "State Farm should be paying her legal fees. At least somebody should have made that argument before they looted her estate. I just did a two-year bankruptcy proceeding that included a four-day trial and billed my client eight thousand dollars. I don't know how anyone justifies those kinds of fees."

Special Tree also has been lobbying the court for Christine's transfer. In a letter to the judge, director Swartz complained that Brian Lynch showed up on a motorcycle, drove it across the lawn, and rode up a deck ramp "risking injury" to her staff and clients.

"It appears now that in many ways he has moved on with his life and has had or currently has other relationships," Swartz wrote. "His visits are sending Christine a mixed message, and in fact, do not seem to be a positive experience for Christine or in her best interest."

By contrast, previous letters from staff at the facility reported Christine showed an "increase in concentration and alertness and willingness to participate" in therapy after visits from her mother. They say she is "never without a smile" during her mother's visits.

"We speculate that she undoubtedly misses her family, her native country, along with hearing the German language," Swartz wrote. To cheer her up, staff decided to try putting up pictures of her German family and other reminders of her past in Christine's room. At first there was concern these could depress her, Swartz wrote. "But, in fact, she responded positively to seeing these pictures."

Among them is a photograph of Christine Fritsch's brown brick home. ■

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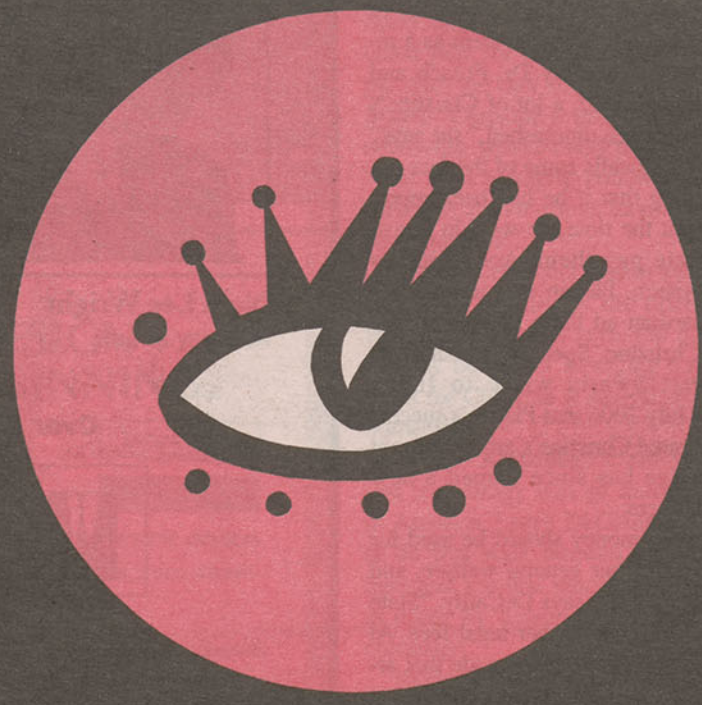

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TREVOR CAMPBELL, *MICHIGAN DAILY*

U-M president Mary Sue Coleman's speech on the Diag affirmed the school's commitment to racial diversity in the wake of Proposal 2. Criticized as rash defiance of the voters, the speech was actually a calculated PR move aimed at reassuring current and prospective staff and students—especially minorities.

CRITICAL mass

The U-M cushioned the impact of Proposal 2 by front-loading admissions last fall. But without affirmative action, all bets are off.

by Michael Betzold

Last November 8, U-M president Mary Sue Coleman addressed a rally on the Diag. Just one day earlier, voters had passed Proposal 2, amending the state constitution to ban affirmative action. Yet Coleman told the crowd that the university remained staunchly committed to racial diversity—and was consulting its lawyers on possible challenges to the new law.

U-M presidents have declared their dedication to a more integrated campus ever since the Black Action Movement strike in 1970. But to some residents, the timing of Coleman's speech—and especially her threat of a legal counterpunch—smacked of arrogance. Michigan's most prestigious university seemed to be going out of its way to defy the state's voters.

The backlash that followed included opinion columns nationwide, letters to editors of newspapers, and scores of emails to the university's Diversity Blueprints Task Force. ("Please stop your bigotry and start judging applicants based on things *other than* the color of their skin" was one typical communication.) Outside the U-M campus, the speech looked like a public relations disaster.

Julie Peterson disagrees. The university's outgoing chief public relations officer—she's leaving at the end of May to become vice-president for communications at the University of Chicago—says the "very strong public communication" was a calculated strategy. According to Peterson, Coleman's comments weren't aimed at Michigan voters. The intended audience was current and prospective university staff and students—especially minorities.

U-M provost Teresa Sullivan, who arrived here in September, was an administrator at the University of Texas in 1996, when courts struck down its law school's affirmative action policies. Afterward, Sullivan says, attorneys advised university officials to say nothing for ten days. The silence was devastating, Sullivan says, feeding an impression in urban areas that the university had "finally succeeded in getting rid of affirmative action."

Texas saw a steep drop in applications from underrepresented minorities in the following years—and so did public universities in California after a voter initiative outlawed affirmative action there. Educators in both Texas and California "regretted they waited too long" to reemphasize their commitment to diversity, Sullivan says, and paid a steep price: the effects of the affirmative action ban were magnified, because discouraged minority students didn't even bother to apply.

That prospect is the U-M administration's nightmare. No other university has ever tied its image and mission so closely to affirmative action as has Michigan. When the conservative Center for Individual Rights (CIR) filed suit against its use of affirmative action in 1997, the U-M spent millions of dollars defending its admissions systems all the way to the U.S.Supreme Court.

The legal battle resulted in a split decision. The Supreme Court struck down the U-M's numbers-based undergrad admissions process, which gave extra points to applicants from "underrepresented minorities" (URMs)—blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans. At the same time, however, it upheld the Law School's admissions policies, which gave an unspecified preference to URMs with the goal of ensuring a vaguely defined "critical mass" of minority students.

The U-M quickly retooled its undergrad system on the Law School model, and continued to favor underrepresented minorities in admissions. But then affirmative action foe Ward Connerly brought his voter-initiative machine to Michigan. Despite opposition from the state's civic, business, labor, and education leaders, Proposal 2 passed with 58 percent of the vote.

U-M administrators had warned of dire consequences if affirmative action were outlawed. "If Proposal 2 passes, University of Michigan officials predict their combined black, Hispanic, and Native American enrollments would go from about 12–14 percent of the student body to about 4–6 percent," the *Detroit News* reported last October.

That may still happen—but it hasn't yet. Thanks to an all-out effort to recruit and admit minorities before the law took effect, minority enrollment is likely to decline only slightly this fall.

Stacking the deck

Months before Proposal 2 passed, administrators expanded their efforts to recruit minority applicants. "We front-loaded it," says admissions director Ted Spencer. "We tried to get as many applications in as soon as we could."

"Most people in the minority community think it's too hard to get into Michigan," Spencer explains. "We wanted to get them to think positively about applying." These efforts, which included tailgate parties, apparently paid off. Through the end of 2006, the number of URM applicants

increased 17 percent over the same point the previous year. "We worked on the pipeline issue" in anticipation of Proposal 2's passage, says Spencer. "It was just planning ahead. It's what any good planner would do."

MARK BIALEK

The U-M admitted nearly twice as many "underrepresented minorities" in the last months of 2006 as it did a year earlier. In January, the university began complying with Proposal 2—and minority admissions fell 36 percent.

The U-M not only got more underrepresented minorities to apply, it also evaluated and accepted their applications at unusually high rates while implementation of Proposal 2 was pending.

Despite Coleman's saber-rattling speech, the university decided not to challenge the constitutional amendment directly. But U-M attorneys did argue, in a court case initiated by others, that it would be unfair to change admissions procedures in the middle of a school year. On December 23 a federal district court stayed Proposal 2's implementation till July. But a week later an appeals court lifted the stay.

At that point the U-M suspended its admissions process completely. By then, however, it had already admitted 479 URM students—nearly twice as many as it had admitted at the same time a year earlier.

Officials deny that the jump in minority admissions in the last months of 2006 was significant, much less planned. They say that figures reflecting admissions at any particular point aren't meaningful, because there can be so much variation year to year in how the process unfolds. But since January 10, when Coleman announced that the U-M would resume admissions and comply fully with Proposal 2, minority admission rates have plummeted. From January 10 through April 8, the number of minority students admitted fell 36 percent compared to the same period last year.

Admissions officials say application readers and admissions counselors have been retrained to no longer use race and gender in their decision making. However, applicants are still asked their gender, race, and national origin—as federal law requires—and race and gender information remains on the forms admissions officers review. The U-M decided not to change its computerized forms in midstream this year, says Chris Lucier, director of recruitment and operations for undergraduate admissions. Provost Sullivan is reviewing whether the information will be blocked out next year.

U-M officials say that even if the information were blocked, it would be hard to conceal. Most applicants identify their gender in their personal essay, and many make their race or ethnicity clear as well. "It would be cosmetic if we took it off," says Spencer.

Jennifer Gratz, one of the litigants against the U-M in the undergraduate admissions case and a leader in the Proposal 2 effort, finds Spencer's statement troubling.

"If university officials are thinking that way, we're got a bigger problem," she says. "It's another potential sign that they will do everything they can to get around the will of the people." Gratz says that race and gender were excised in California so that admissions officers couldn't see them, and "I think that the university should be taking positive steps" like that in Michigan.

Ever since the Supreme Court rejected the U-M's point-based affirmative action system, admissions reviews have been "holistic." So no one can say precisely what weight, if any, individual counselors assigned to race before Proposal 2—and it remains impossible now. But it is possible to look at the collective outcomes of those decisions. That's what CIR says it will do to monitor the U-M's compliance with Proposal 2.

This year's admissions numbers can't be challenged, says CIR lead attorney Terence Pell, because "they didn't start the race-blind procedures until January. But if next year's [2008's] class had the same racial makeup, you would know nothing had changed, and you can start to look at admission statistics."

If analysis found URM students were being admitted at much higher rates than white students with similar qualifications, Pell says, a rejected white applicant might have another legal case. "It would be much easier this time," he says, now that Michigan has a clear law against using racial preferences.

But it looks as though Proposal 2 has already had a dramatic effect. Typically the U-M has admitted about two-thirds of minority applicants. Since January, the percentage of minority applicants admitted rate has fallen to 43 percent—virtually identical to the rate for nonminorities.

A new strategy

By front-loading applications and admissions, the U-M bought a year's time. Though April 8, URM admissions were down just 7 percent compared to a year earlier. It's too early to say how many of those students will actually enroll, but officials hope that they'll be able to avoid giving any impression that the university is less welcoming to minority students.

That impression is crucial, because the U-M's plan to maintain a diverse student body hinges on getting more minority high-schoolers to apply and enroll. "Look, we're not just going to lie down here," says Ted Spencer, informally summarizing the university's response to Proposal 2. As spelled out in the March recommendations of the Diversity Blueprints Task Force, the plan essentially consists of getting more black, Hispanic, and Native American students to apply; devising new, legal ways to select them; and then doing more to sweeten the deal for the most sought-after students.

The U-M has long courted prospective minority students. Former U-M president Jim Duderstadt says the task force's outreach recommendations are much like efforts he led during his tenure from 1988 to 1996. "There isn't much novelty in it [the report]," he says, pointing to a doubling of minority students at the U-M from 1989 to 1996 as a result of his "Michigan Mandate." But Duderstadt says these efforts were scaled back during the lawsuits over affirmative action. Now, he's hopeful that "we can probably continue to make progress" with a renewed dedication to outreach.

"It's shoe leather—making a commitment that people get out and pound the pavement," Duderstadt says. "A lot of it has to do with effort rather than some magic bullet."

It will take a lot of pounding. With URM admission rates down by more than a third since Proposal 2 was implemented, the U-M would have to boost its minority applicant pool from around 2,600 a year to close to 4,000 just to maintain its current enrollment.

Another strategy is to bring in more minority transfer students. "The president's encouraged us to engage low- and middle-income students at community colleges who thought the U of M was out of reach for them both financially and academically," says senior vice-provost Lester Monts, who cochaired the diversity task force with provost Sullivan.

This year, for the first time, the U-M has used a demographic tool to target particular high schools and neighborhoods for admissions preference. Sold by the College Board (the same folks who devise the SAT), "Descriptor PLUS" categorizes students as coming from one of thirty kinds of high schools or neighborhoods, each with a heap of specified characteristics, including percent going to college, income level, and race. It's based on "geodemographics"—the same methods marketers use to sell you products when they assume that where you live reveals something about what you might buy.

U-M officials deny they started using Descriptor PLUS in admissions because of the prospect that Proposal 2 would pass. But spokeswoman Julie Peterson says it's an especially useful tool in Michigan, since the schools and cities in this state are so segregated, and she says it could help the U-M achieve its goals of racial diversity—though she hastens to add that this is not the only kind of diversity the university is seeking to enhance.

This year, U-M officials targeted thirteen of the thirty "high school clusters" and twelve of the thirty "neighborhood clusters" as being underrepresented areas they wanted to recruit from more heavily. These included many, but not all, of the "clusters" with the highest percentages of minority residents.

Pell, the attorney for CIR, is withholding judgment on the university's use of Descriptor PLUS. While it could be "a legitimate effort to identify lower-income applicants," he says, it is "potentially quite problematic" if the U-M tries to use demographic data as a "proxy for race."

New admissions criteria may raise the same question. Once students apply, the Diversity Blueprints Task Force recommends evaluating them in three new categories—"distance traveled," "direction headed," and "cognitive complexity."

"Distance traveled" gauges whether the applicant has overcome significant barriers in life and education. "Direction headed" seeks to measure a student's "commitment to the improvement of the public good." "Cognitive complexity" is defined as a way "to measure modes of diverse thinking and capacity for engaging with diverse perspectives."

The final piece of the strategic puzzle is to persuade more minority applicants to actually enroll. U-M officials say the passage of Proposal 2 puts them at a competitive disadvantage against schools that still are permitted to use affirmative action.

Thousands converged at the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court during oral arguments in the University's landmark affirmative action admissions lawsuits. (4.1.03; UM Photo Services, Marcia L. Ledford)

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

U-M spokeswoman Julie Peterson with a photo of the crowd waiting while the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the U-M affirmative action lawsuit. The university won a partial victory in the landmark case—only to see affirmative action outlawed by Michigan voters.

They worry minority students will choose other campuses they take to be friendlier environments.

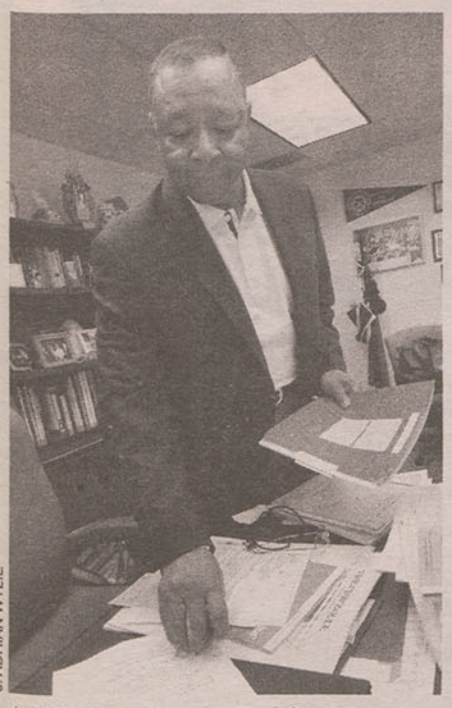
So the U-M is prepared to sweeten the deal by offering the "most coveted" students more money more quickly. In the past there's been a lag between enrollment offers and financial aid offers, and "we've lost some students in the process," says Peterson. The task force recommends the U-M "provide full-tuition scholarships based on academic promise and financial need to students from targeted geographic locations." It also suggests "developing 'matching programs' which offer to meet the competition's offers based on our best judgment of the degree to which the student is 'in demand' or, for any student we admit, say we'll do our best to beat the financial aid offers from competitive institutions." And in case money's not enough, Ted Spencer recently revealed that Mary Sue Coleman herself is calling some especially coveted applicants to urge them to come to Ann Arbor.

Rethinking diversity

Administrators hope such tactics will increase the number of minority applications and acceptances enough to offset the falling admissions rate under Proposal 2. The definitive test of their efforts will come a year from now, when the figures for the class entering in fall 2008 are in.

In its legal battle with the Center for Individual Rights, the U-M argued that diversity was central to its educational mission. To succeed in today's world, the university contended, students must become familiar and comfortable with multiracial perspectives. For that to happen, officials say, a "critical mass" of the designated minorities is necessary to make them feel comfortable in expressing their views, and to give all students sufficient exposure to their experiences and contributions.

Officials haven't changed this view one iota since the November vote. Yet according to Spencer, the U-M's black student enrollment has *never* been large enough to constitute a "critical mass"—not when affirmative action was legal, and not even before the Supreme Court outlawed racial quotas. The numbers admitted have always been so small, he says, that African Americans have never felt comfortable on campus. Yet if this year's trend continues, the university will admit even fewer underrepresented minorities in the years ahead.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Admissions director Ted Spencer hopes to recruit more minority applicants—but even when affirmative action was legal, he says, the university never achieved a critical mass of African American students.

Others suggest that if diversity under the old definition is unattainable, it may be time to find a new definition. Some see the end of affirmative action as an opportunity for the U-M to redefine its mission beyond enrolling certain numbers of minority students to a broader and deeper embrace of social justice—particularly by doing more about the problems that make large numbers of minority students unprepared for college.

"Outreach programs should target specific high schools that are underresourced or have historically sent low numbers of students to the U of M," says U-M history assistant professor Scott Kurashige, a Detroit resident. He notes that the U-M's 2006 freshman class included only 103 black students from Wayne County.

Amid Ismail, a professor at the U-M School of Dentistry, is disappointed that the university does not see the need for a "critical mass" of other minorities—such as Asians, Jews, Muslims, or Arabs. "Diversity is not a black-and-white issue," says Ismail.

Ismail runs a research and educational program in Detroit on dental health. He'd like to see the U-M make a bigger and more serious commitment to that city's children and the educational systems and social networks that are failing to help them reach their potential.

"Affirmative action has done wonders in terms of opening the door and bringing people in," says Ismail, "but only for the people who were reaching the door of the university."

The task force report makes a few nods in the direction of greater outreach to urban areas, suggesting the U-M "expand engagement in targeted partnerships with underserved K–12 schools." But nothing in the report or top officials' statements indicates that the U-M is considering greatly expanded new commitments.

For now, the focus seems to be on matters of perception. Having already paid a PR price for their ringing endorsement of diversity after the election, university leaders are hoping for payback this fall, as high school seniors apply to join next year's freshman class. If Michigan can avoid the steep drop in URM applications seen in Texas and California, it will have a fighting chance to maintain diversity without affirmative action.

The results will be studied far beyond Ann Arbor—because the nationwide battle is far from over. Jennifer Gratz says she is working with the American Civil Rights Institute, Ward Connerly's group, to bring anti-affirmative-action proposals to voters in three to five more states in November 2008.

"Michigan paved the way," she says. ■

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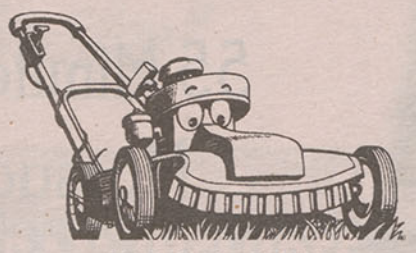

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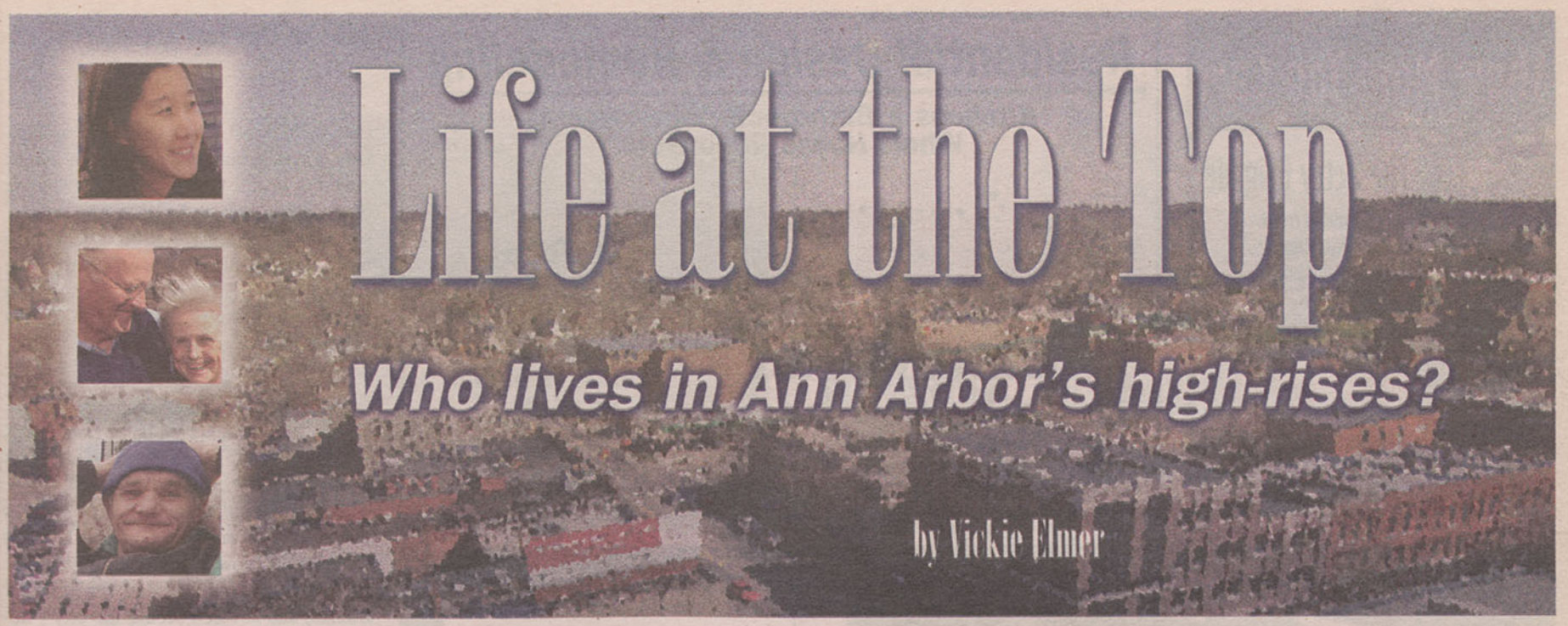


Life at the Top

Who lives in Ann Arbor's high-rises?

by Vickie Elmer

Ali Rabbani lives twenty-five stories higher than most Ann Arborites. From his two-bedroom home on the top floor of Tower Plaza, Rabbani can savor the sunsets over Main Street and watch people head into the Michigan Theater. He throws parties and studies law in front of a panoramic view that his parents acquired for him more than two years ago.

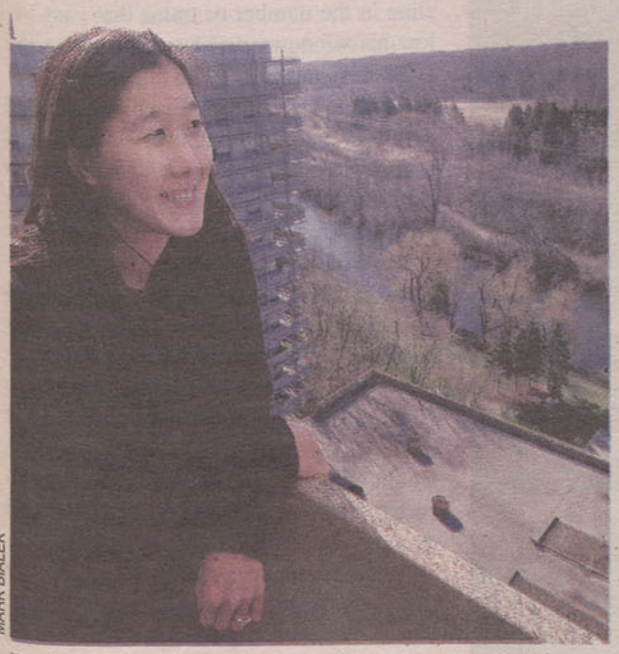
Virginia Tyson Smith moved to her eleventh-floor Ann Arbor home almost ten years ago, after more than sixty years of living in the Grosse Pointes. Known as Jinny, she likes her neighbors in Courthouse Square, the senior apartment building downtown, and appreciates the solarium and the residents who volunteer to tend its plants. She also likes her sense that she can be alone sometimes —or entertain her great-grandchildren on a Sunday afternoon.

Joe Fitzsimmons fell for his tenth-and-eleventh-floor home more than a decade ago and appreciates its four decks, two-story-high windows, and views of North Campus and the river. "All you see are trees out there," says the retired executive and philanthropist. "It's beautiful any time of the year." His condominium at One North Main is great for fund-raisers and his collection of books on Antarctica.

These residents of high-rises with sweeping views of the city—and the fields and territory beyond it—make it clear that penthouses are not solely for the rich, though plenty of well-to-do residents do live at or near the top floors. The view from the top of Ann Arbor's highest residential buildings is enjoyed by U-M students and professors, by philanthropists and surgeons, by seniors and nineteen-year-olds.

Mostly students live at the top of Tower Plaza—the city's tallest building, at twenty-six stories. Mostly professionals or businesspeople—including Fitzsimmons and Observer publisher Patricia Garcia—live atop One North Main, the 1980s-vintage office-and-residential high-rise at Main and Huron. And at Courthouse Square, a onetime hotel a block east, a few people have moved from the bottom rungs of Ann Arbor to the penthouse.

Clyde LaPalm, sixty-four, moved into Courthouse Square about ten months ago after many months in a homeless shelter. "I got two big rooms," he brags; he has a big view of Crazy Wisdom Bookstore and various rooftops around Main Street. Now living on Social Security, he enjoys putting together puzzles in the solarium, tracking workers repairing roofs, and watching "all the vehicles going back and forth." For all that, he pays a subsidized rent of $165 a month, including heat.



MARK BIALEK

Darice Wong loves the view from her Huron Towers balcony—even if it's too windy to grow plants.

Others, of course, pay much more for the privilege of soaring above a city whose skyline in most neighborhoods tops out at two stories or the tree line. And others see different advantages of living at the top—it's quiet and tranquil, unless your neighbors host a party (and many like to, because people will show up for the view or the prestige of being on the top floor). It's warmer in some buildings because the heat rises. It feels like a world apart, yet most top-dwellers are within steps of downtown's restaurant and bar scene—or, in one case, within steps of the Huron River.

MARK BIALEK

Last year, Clyde LaPalm was living in a homeless shelter. Now he's got a top-floor apartment in Courthouse Square for a subsidized rent of $165 a month.

Some half dozen residential buildings in Ann Arbor rise ten stories or higher, and another is under construction. Some top-floor condos are being marketed for prices as high as $850,000—nearly five times the median local condo price last year. Yet even if Ann Arbor's prime penthouses approach $1 million, they sell for less than some homes here. And they go for less than half of what a comparable place would cost in Chicago and a fraction of what the penthouse palaces in Manhattan command—$13 to $30 million and beyond.

A "penthouse" was originally a separate structure on the roof of a building, but now the term is commonly used for any top-floor apartment. Often opulent dwellings with a terrace or deck, penthouses became popular in cities from London to San Francisco after the elevator became common, around 1920. These days they often fetch premium prices over lower-floor units. Some New York City penthouses have sold for more than $40 million—in part because of their beautiful views of the East or Hudson River or Central Park and their top-of-the-world, exclusive feeling.

"It's an expanding subject—and not just for very high-income buyers. Any discussion of penthouses would have to go hand in hand with the revival of high-rise living" in the last ten or fifteen years, writes Jonathan Bell, author of *Penthouse Living*. Some high-rise apartments are built for a lower-income market, he notes, and some in New York and elsewhere are required to set aside a few units for low-income families.

Some real estate agents in Ann Arbor say they are good investments as downtown becomes more of a destination for residents as well as diners. But not everyone is convinced the views of Michigan's sprawling campus and the city are worth such lofty prices. Tall condominiums stand out in Ann Arbor, and they're not necessarily as popular as they are in cities such as Chicago or New York, says Glenda

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Gerbstadt, a real estate agent who specializes in condominium sales. "It's a unique crowd of people who will pay that amount of money to live up there in Ann Arbor," she said, suggesting that the prices were more suited to the Chicago market. "The price is just too much. . . . I haven't run across too many people who think it's worth it to live on the top."

A prof with a view

One who does is Marvin Eisenberg, who has lived at or near the top of Huron Towers for nearly forty-five years, thirty-eight of them in a twelfth-floor apartment that housed his art collection. The U-M art history prof, now retired, held parties for faculty and students and recitals for friends, and savored seeing the city's development.

"I simply like watching the skyline of Ann Arbor change over the years . . . the downtown, the hospital city, the campus and North Campus . . . the evolution of the city," says Eisenberg, who at eighty-four still occasionally edits art history papers and books. He feels disappointed that the university has built too many buildings that are "far too academic or flimsy factory architecture." And over four decades in Huron Towers, he has noticed a real decline in the number of trains that pass below his windows, and huge growth in the U-M Hospitals just up the hill.

A lifelong bachelor, U-M art historian Marvin Eisenberg wanted to live in a tall building ever since he was a child in Philadelphia and visited his aunt's apartment high above that city. He recalls asking his parents, "Why don't we live in a high-rise?"

A lifelong bachelor, Eisenberg wanted to live in a tall building ever since he was a child in Philadelphia and visited his aunt's apartment high above that city. He recalls asking his parents, "Why don't we live in a high-rise?"

So in 1962, a year after Huron Towers opened, Eisenberg moved into a three-bedroom apartment on the southwest corner of the top floor. His view was of the Nichols Arboretum and a western corner of the city. Students and faculty, he says, would comment on his dual connection to "urban and pastoral" places, to "town and country combined."

With 360 apartments in two concrete buildings set back from the Huron River, Huron Towers is big enough to support its own hair salon and fitness center. According to its website, two-bedroom apartments currently rent for $995 to $1,075 a

MARK BIALEK

Joe Fitzsimmons wanted a home that would convince his then-fiancee, Beth, to move from Washington, D.C., to Ann Arbor. He found it at One North Main. "I promised her blue skies every day of her life ," he says. "I lied. . . . It's the next best thing."

month, which includes heat and water. About two years ago, because of health concerns and a desire to scale down, Eisenberg moved to a smaller, two-bedroom apartment on the tenth floor. He misses "the sense that no one is above me" and the scale of space he used to have. But he's grateful he still has a beautiful view; he cannot imagine moving any lower. The row of windows in his living room gives him a view of the sport fields, the hospital, and the edges of downtown. "Now I have the whole town lit up at night," he says.

Grandma and cat on top

Jinny Smith was born and raised in the Grosse Pointes, and raised her own children there as well. So she says she was a bit reluctant when her daughter suggested that Smith move to Ann Arbor so she could "keep an eye on me." But then Smith saw the apartment at Courthouse Square, which had a real tile floor in the bathroom and a beautiful view of the city. In June 1997, she packed up her antiques and family heirlooms and her cat and moved in. Smith recalls that her daughter said, "I hope you're bringing the rocking chair."

She did. She also brought an ornate piano bench that she uses as a coffee table, another old bench painted with birds and flowers, and some antique milk cans. Her one-bedroom apartment on the top floor, which was recarpeted and painted last year, overflows with teddy bears, brass elephants and ducks, and other pieces; some of them came from her Pennsylvania Dutch relatives and date to the turn of the twentieth century.

But she's done more than sit in the rocking chair. Smith used to walk all around Ann Arbor, though at eighty-two she's become less active. She gave up driving two years ago and now often takes the "grocery bus" once a week to shop. She appreciates the solarium's plants (some silk and some live), and until a year or so ago she used the stationary bicycles there for exercising. Her rent, around $700 a month, does not include electricity but does cover heat and water. "There's only a handful of us who pay full rent," she confides. The others get reductions based on their incomes.

"I'm a very private person, and I like being alone," Smith says contentedly, noting that her cat keeps her company. She also mentions says that she has good neighbors on the eleventh floor and finds the entire building quite safe and easy to live in: "I'm just very happy in my cozy little place."

High-rise philanthropist

Joe Fitzsimmons moved into One North Main in May 1996. He'd looked at another high-rise condo nearby, in Sloan Plaza, but none of the units available there had decks—and he wanted to be able to step outdoors.

The retired president of University Microfilms had lived in Ann Arbor for thirty years at the time, but never downtown. So when he saw the 2,100-square-foot condo at One North Main, he was hooked. "I

Jinny Smith was born and raised in the Grosse Pointes, and raised her own children there as well. So she says she was a bit reluctant when her daughter suggested that Smith move to Ann Arbor so she could "keep an eye on me." But then Smith saw the apartment at Courthouse Square, which had a real tile floor in the bathroom and a beautiful view of the city. In June 1997, she packed up her antiques and family heirlooms and her cat and moved in.

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Life at the Top *continued*

walked in the door and I said, 'I'll take it. It's fantastic.' "

At the time he was courting a woman who lived in Washington, D.C., and he wanted a home that would help convince her to move to Ann Arbor. He married Beth later that year; she joined him in Ann Arbor full time about two years later.

"I promised her blue skies every day of her life. I lied. . . . It's the next best thing," he says, adding that they live with the weather and like watching rain and clouds in their book- and family-photo-filled condo. He ticks off other advantages: within walking distance are dozens of restaurants, great bookstores and libraries, and most of Ann Arbor's movers and shakers.

"It's extremely quiet; the only things we hear are sirens from the fire department," he says. "The decks are fabulous. We have our own little trees and plants." And the views are equally fine: he can look out on West Park, where his sons used to play football, and can see the river in the distance and the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital billboard on top of the liquor store on Main Street. "I got them to do that," says Fitzsimmons, who serves on St. Joe's board of directors.

Penthouses aren't just for the rich, though plenty of well-to-do residents live at or near the top floors. The view from the top of Ann Arbor's highest residential buildings is enjoyed by U-M students and professors, by philanthropists and surgeons, by seniors and nineteen-year-olds.

He sees no disadvantages to living up high downtown, though several years ago he felt there were too many homeless people wandering the streets during the day. So he and others "launched a drive for the homeless" that resulted in construction of the Delonis Center nearby on Huron.

Of his own downtown residence, "they sold it as a penthouse," Fitzsimmons says. "I just call it our home, our home up here."

Students savor the high life

Darice Wong and Ali Rabbani are students who live the high life.

Wong, a graduate student in biomedical engineering, has lived in Huron Towers since November 2004. She and her husband moved from the fourth floor to the seventh floor a year later and to the top floor a year after that.

"I'd never really lived in anything taller than two stories before," says Wong, who grew up in North Carolina. "We ended up moving gradually higher and higher."

She says the rent rose a bit—about $50 a month—when they moved up to floor 12. The monthly rent for their one-bedroom apartment, $855, includes a huge outpouring of heat, which seems higher in their current abode too.

She enjoys seeing the colors of plants in the Arb change, with the leaves of spring slowly adding more and more green. "Sometimes I walk through there to go to school," she says, pointing to a path that's partly visible through bare trees.

Friends who visit are impressed with the size of the huge wraparound balcony; one thought the building, made of concrete slabs, looks like those in Taiwan. But Wong is frustrated that she cannot get plants to grow on her balcony. "It's really windy up here," she says: neither herbs nor flowers would grow, and the wind swept away a watering can and other things sitting outside. "This is my failed herb garden," she says, pointing to a few pots in the corner of the balcony.

Rabbani has no balcony and no herb garden in his penthouse. But he has plenty of sunlight.

He used to wear an eye cover to bed because the windows on his top-floor Tower Plaza condo let in so much light. The long line of windows on the twenty-sixth floor made sleeping in difficult for the U-M law student, who graduated in December. But these days he's studying for the bar exam and enjoying the view of the Michigan Theater and the shops near it. The view also takes in Kerrytown and parts of Main Street.

His parents bought the two-bedroom condo in the summer of 2003 while he was in New Zealand. They liked it because it was one of only a handful of two-bedrooms in Tower Plaza. The building's proximity to campus makes it popular with students, but its soundproof construction also appeals to therapists, who've turned a number of units into offices. Higher-floor digs come at a premium: a large one-bedroom at Tower Plaza on the twenty-sixth floor was listed in April for $290,000—nearly 20 percent more than a similar one a few floors down.

Rabbani, twenty-five, has redecorated the place since moving in—the floors are blond wood, and a flat-screen TV is mounted on a wall painted tropical blue. And he's invited many friends in for parties, with beer and cocktails and the view all part of the appeal.

"I'm definitely the loudest person on this floor," he says. "It's kind of silent up here. On weekends and nights it's totally quiet." He says he sometimes misses hearing the wind blowing through the trees.

His other issue with the twenty-sixth floor is the lengthy ride up. The elevators take a long time—sometimes ten minutes—to arrive, and the ride up or down adds another minute or more. Yet he finds he relishes the view of moonrises and sunsets—and knows he may soon miss his high-rise living when he heads to Los Angeles for a job.

"It's kind of relaxing" watching the city, he says. "On a clear day you can see Detroit." ■

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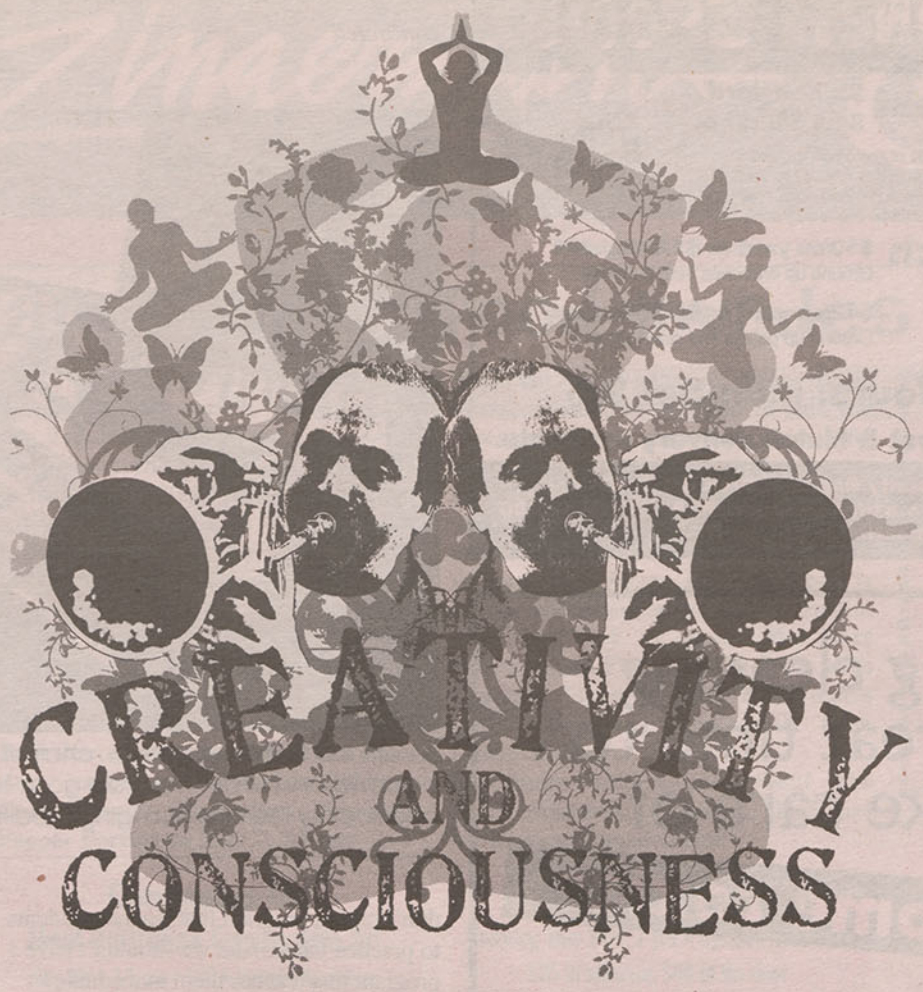

by James Militzer

Jazz prof Ed Sarath is bringing meditation to the U-M—and just maybe saving the world.

A young man sits expectantly on the Power Center stage, electrodes attached to his head. Behind him is an enormous colored projection of the EEG that's monitoring his brain. On his right stands John Hagelin, a Harvard-educated physicist and former presidential candidate. On his left is David Lynch, director of surrealistic works like *Mulholland Drive* and *Twin Peaks*. As brain waves twitch chaotically on the screen, Lynch announces that the young man is about to perform Transcendental Meditation. The meditator closes his eyes and smiles calmly, and within seconds the EEG image settles into a coordinated groove. Lynch turns to the murmuring audience and declares, "This is what meditation brings you—a sense of awareness, of wakefulness, of energy. True happiness is not out there. True happiness lies within."

The event was organized by music prof Ed Sarath—flügelhorn player, chair of the U-M jazz department, and man on a mission. His controversial goal: to revolutionize higher education—and society itself—by bringing meditative practices to the university.

Seven years ago, Sarath's Program in Jazz and Contemplative Studies became the first degree-granting program in the country to incorporate what he calls "contemplative practices" into its core curriculum. Now he hopes to use his Faculty Network for Creativity and Consciousness Studies—which promoted the David Lynch event—to found a campuswide major in contemplative studies. If he succeeds, he says, all U-M students will have greater access to contemplative practices, with benefits that range from heightened creativity to a transcendent connection to the universal current of life. And if other schools follow suit, the results could change the world.

"Humanity is at a point where change has to take place," Sarath says passionately. A slim man with a graying beard, he talks over the sound of music students practicing in neighboring rooms. "We have no choice—we've got all kinds of crises that are threatening our survival. And the challenges we're dealing with in the world today call for a much broader kind of human development than we've had up to this point."

He leans forward intently. "Here's my favorite question for people: How sustainable is the course humanity is on right now? People blowing themselves up in the name of God, flying airplanes into buildings, attacking other countries—these are not sustainable practices. And in light of these challenges to our very survival, it's clear that the current educational paradigm is unsustainable too. That's why I think it's inevitable that higher education make a huge shift."

Sarath envisions a university in which students' perspectives are fundamentally altered—and their lives potentially transformed—by introspective contemplation. Education, he says, must not focus solely on objective facts and measurable skills but must also help students cultivate a connection to their deeper beings—what he calls the "study of the self."

If his current program in the U-M School of Music is any indication, this would translate to a curriculum heavy on psychology and Eastern thought. Alongside the typical classes in music theory and practice, the Program in Jazz and Contemplative Studies offers electives like "Buddhist Studies," "Islamic Mysticism," and "Psychology and Spiritual Development." Most important, it requires students to take four semesters of the "Contemplative Practice Seminar." Seminar students engage in breath awareness, free writing, drumming, and other activities meant to quiet their thoughts and deepen their awareness. They're encouraged to continue these practices daily outside of class. "We give them a list of meditation centers. Ann Arbor's a hotbed for that sort of thing," Sarath says. "It's not a requirement that they go, but we highly encourage it."

"People blowing themselves up in the name of God, flying airplanes into buildings, attacking other countries—these are not sustainable practices," Sarath says. "And in light of these challenges to our very survival, it's clear that the current educational paradigm is unsustainable too."

Meditative practices, Sarath says, can bring profound benefits to his students' lives—and eventually to the world they live in. "There's a transformational experience that often happens in these classes," he says, "where students discover new aspects of themselves and experience modes of consciousness that are not generally available to them. Jazz students report a sense of freedom and joy in their improvising, and others experience a general expansion of their creative horizons.

"They're liberated from the dull, ordinary awareness that pervades most of our existence. They engage more fully in what they're doing, feel a greater sense of happiness, a greater connection to others—they're going in and out of different transcendent states." Harp music swells beautifully in the classroom next door, and Sarath laughs self-consciously. "This is ambitious, I realize. And it may be kind of utopian. But to me, this is the mission of the university: to develop the full potential of the human being, to foster an awareness of the connections between all life."

Sarath recalls with a laugh that when he first proposed the Program in Jazz and Contemplative Studies, in 2000, "all hell broke loose." Though the music, theater, and dance faculty ultimately approved the program, strong opposition within the school led to an unusually close vote.

"The use of meditation in the classroom was their primary objection," Sarath recalls. But in his view, the biggest obstacle was academic inertia. "I think there's just a general tendency for faculty members to resist change. Higher education is a place where you'd think that an exploration of new ideas would be commonplace. But the faculty actually tend to be quite conservative."

Not surprisingly, the program's critics resent this characterization. (Reluctant to revive personal animosities stirred by the vote, all insisted on anonymity.) "One of the worst things you can be branded at the University of Michigan is conservative," complains one faculty member. "And when you have a program like this, which is extremely divisive, terms like that poison the debate. So anyone who tries to stick up for academic standards does so at his own risk."

There's anger in this professor's voice as he recalls the controversy. "One of the program's goals was that students would reach higher states of consciousness that would unleash their creative potential. But how will students know—how will anyone know—whether they have reached that goal through these meditation techniques?" He shakes his head and shrugs. "The fact is it's possible to *not* achieve this skill and to still receive credit."

Another opponent raises a larger issue. "A lot of the language surrounding this proposal was about the idea that human consciousness is a unified thing that allows us to overcome all kinds of divisions—divisions among academic disciplines, divisions among people," he recalls. "And what a lot of us were saying was that there is no academic consensus that consciousness is unified. And what's more, a belief in a unified consciousness is akin to a belief in some kind of transcendence . . . a belief in the soul." He smiles ironically. "But when some of us pointed out that this was a specific kind of religious program, the supporters simply said, 'Oh no, this isn't about spirituality, this is about consciousness and creativity.'" His voice rises in frustration. "Universities don't have programs like this! We may have a religious studies program, but we don't have a Christianity program. We

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MARK BIALEK

Sarath is a flügelhorn player, chair of the U-M jazz department, and a man on a mission. His controversial goal: to revolutionize higher education—and society itself—by bringing meditative practices to the university.

don't have a program that teaches students to practice Islam. And we shouldn't have a program that teaches them to meditate."

Sarath says that his programs do not endorse any particular spiritual belief. Yet during his Power Center presentation, David Lynch explicitly sought to recruit practitioners of Transcendental Meditation (TM)—a practice based on the repetition of Hindu mantras. Adopted by the Beatles in the 1960s (and currently taught for a hefty fee), TM teaches that if enough people engage in its brand of meditation, they will generate world peace by radiating harmonious energy into society.

Sarath's belief in meditation's transformative potential seems to echo this teaching, and Lynch's copresenter at the Power Center, John Hagelin, may be its most prominent advocate. Hagelin ran for president in 1992, 1996, and 2000 as the candidate of TM's Natural Law Party and currently heads TM's "U.S. Peace Government." But Sarath says he was disappointed at Lynch and Hagelin's recruitment efforts: he says he often schedules events that promote the general benefits of meditation, and that's what he'd expected Lynch and Hagelin to do.

Sarath emphasizes that his courses expose students to a variety of generic contemplative practices and do not advocate any specific tradition or belief. In fact, he says, when it comes to meditation, belief itself is irrelevant: "One can sit down and meditate without a belief that these practices will do any good—one can even believe the practices are useless—and still gain benefits. Why? Because belief is a mental construct. It is a thought. And meditation allows the mind to transcend thought and experience the most silent depths of consciousness that are devoid of mental activity, but fully wakeful in the radiance of the transcendent Self."

And what about those who feel that only their God is transcendent, and that teaching students to access the "radiance of the transcendent Self" implicitly contradicts their faith? Sarath laughs nervously. "Well, it's interesting. If you're talking about Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, the mystical dimensions of these traditions are similar, in many ways, to Eastern thinking—the same kind of ideas behind the consciousness studies movement." Since he sees the three Abrahamic religions fueling conflicts that could threaten humanity, is Sarath hoping consciousness studies might ultimately lead people away from the Western concept of a separate God, and toward the Eastern concept of God as universal oneness? After a pause, he says quietly, "It could be, yeah. I'm hesitant to be quoted on that, but I really like the idea."

How do university administrators feel about all this? Lester Monts, the senior vice-provost for academic affairs, was one of the principal supporters of Sarath's "study of the self" in the music school (he's a trumpeter and ethnomusicologist by training). But Monts initially hesitates when asked whether he thinks contemplative practices should be offered as a separate field of study.

"I think that would have to be carefully crafted," Monts says. "And I would have to hear Ed's dialogue on that before I could really respond. But Ed Sarath is a brilliant person. He's constantly thinking beyond the boundaries, moving away from the status quo. So if some of the methods, techniques, pedagogies, or whatever that Ed is using will expand the horizons of education campuswide, I'm all for it."

He seems to warm to the topic. "One of the things that intrigues me about his courses is that they aren't just for musicians. He teaches people from the Medical School, from the School of Theater and Dance, from athletics—he taught the entire offensive line of the football team! It's a coming together that's unprecedented on

The Zingerman's Times

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australian food invades ann arbor

The *Times* international desk reports the land of kangaroos, platypus and yes, Vegemite is taking over Ann Arbor throughout the month of May with bonzer events (and cool T-shirts for sale) at Zingerman's Delicatessen, highlighting the unique foods and culture of Australia.

Times sources say this promotion might tempt Men at Work's Colin Hay to knock on the Deli's Next Door cafe to join Ari for a tasting of his favorite native foods, featured exclusively in the Deli throughout this Australian invasion, including Charmaine Solomon Curries and Australian Mountain Pepper Berries on May 9, 7-9 pm.

Reports also suggest that Kylie Minogue could be inspired to ride the "Locomotion" to the Next Door cafe, where she can enjoy a dinky-di rendition of Australia's signature coffee drink—the "Flat White." A mix of coffee and milk, much like a latte with a more intense coffee flavor, the Flat White is taking coffeehouses in Paris, London and New York by storm. The Next Door's ripper Flat White is made with Espresso Blend #1 from Zingerman's Coffee Company and milk from Calder Dairy.

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traditional mint julep is the toast of ann arbor's westside

While the mint julep is best known as the traditional cocktail of the Kentucky Derby, *Times* sources predict it will soon be second-best known as the traditional cocktail of Ann Arbor's westside. Despite polls indicating most Americans believe they have to visit the south in order to enjoy a really good, authentic, hand-made mint julep, eyewitnesses report bartenders mixing a traditional version of the drink at Zingerman's Roadhouse.

A *Times* investigation revealed just what makes the Roadhouse's mint julep so good: really good ingredients. The Roadhouse nixes the pre-mixed version of the mint julep most likely to be served in many northern bars in favor of real fresh mint leaves, sugar and Maker's Mark Bourbon.

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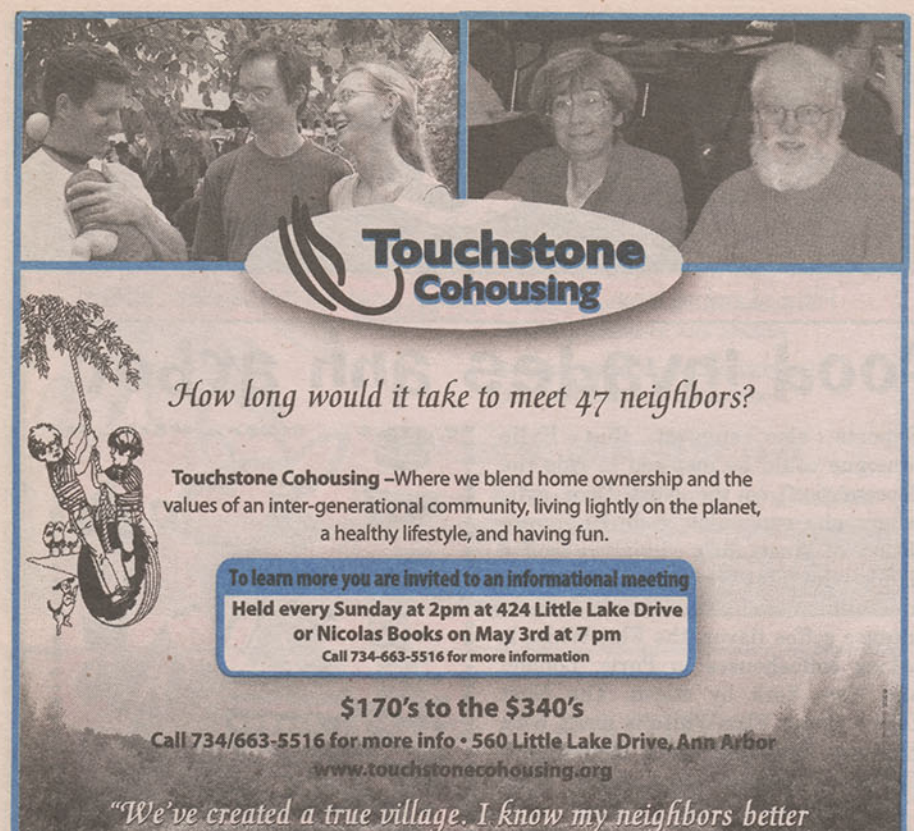
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CREATIVITY AND CONSCIOUSNESS
continued

this campus. This is what higher education at Michigan should be like."

Monts seems untroubled by the spiritual overtones of Sarath's program. "In terms of the creative process, meditation is highly advisable and widespread in the music-making community," he says matter-of-factly. "There are conductors of orchestras who engage in a lot of yoga before they perform. And I'm almost certain that composers like Beethoven and Stravinsky had ways of connecting with their consciousness—higher powers, or whatever—in order to create the kind of music that they created." He smiles. "People are always seeking ways to move beyond their normal state, in order to connect with the pinnacle of their creativity. I think that's where, to a large extent, our creativity as human beings comes from—the inner self being able to relate to something that we consider to be a higher power."

"People may or may not call meditation spiritual," Sarath says. "But if (critics) don't want any talk of spirituality in the academy, they should look at all the other areas, from psychology to life sciences, where this dialogue is taking place."

But couldn't the same argument be used to justify teaching prayer in the classroom? Monts frowns slightly at the suggestion. "Well . . . I mean, prayer to whom? If one is seeking a connection with their own consciousness, fine. But if it's proselytizing, or trying to pull someone into another person's way of believing, I think we would have a problem with that. But I think Ed has enough integrity not to let that happen. . . . I don't think there's anything happening in this program that would drive anyone to take it as a substitution for their own religious beliefs."

So is it safe to say he endorses Sarath's goal of transforming society by bringing meditative practices to higher education? "Umm . . . well, yeah." Monts laughs nervously and then seems to regain his footing. "I mean, I don't think we have opened up higher education enough to encompass all there is to know about the world around us. We don't have all the answers to human existence in this country. And there are times when I feel that sustainability in our democracy really is being threatened. Because we are becoming so isolated, and so . . . domineering. I think that higher education is going to have to make a series of grand steps in order to counter the direction our society seems to be taking."

Monts pauses for a moment, as if he's weighing his words. "I don't know what your political persuasion is, but when I listen to George Bush . . ." He shakes his head in amazement. "He is an idiot. But this is the person who is running our country. And what I'm saying is that in order to counter the idiocy of someone like Bush, we need more people like Ed Sarath teaching the next generation of students to lead this country in a different direction."

Not all U-M higher-ups are so open to Sarath's vision. When asked whether he's ever had to defend the contemplative studies program to skeptics in the administration, Monts doesn't hesitate: "Ohhhh yeah. I was talking to one of my close colleagues, who is just a wonderful scholar, and I said, 'Hey, have you heard about Ed's program?' And she just goes . . ." Monts rolls his eyes, purses his lips, and hums the title theme of *The Twilight Zone*.

The program's supporters chafe at that kind of response. Richard Mann, a profes-

MARK BIALEK

As education director of the U-M's integrative medicine program, Rita Benn introduces medical faculty to alternative medicine concepts, including meditation. "They love it," Benn says. "We have more applicants than we have spaces."

sor emeritus of psychology and a member of Sarath's faculty network, denies that meditation has any supernatural overtones. "'Subjective' knowledge doesn't mean 'wishy-washy' and 'weird'—it means everybody, all the time, is the subject," he says testily. "When all the content of your mind begins to quiet down, what's left is an experience of pure awareness. There's no denominational or religious tag to it. There are no mythic figures lurking in the background. But when meditators start to search around for a verbal feeling to express that experience, they'll look anywhere and everywhere—they'll read poems, they'll read the Bible, they'll read Eastern mystics. So if some people talk about universal consciousness, that's fine. But that's just a way of expressing."

EUGENE ROBERTSON, *MICHIGAN DAILY*

Filmmaker David Lynch promoted Transcendental Meditation during a Power Center appearance. Sarath says he was disappointed at the event's religious turn—he says he'd expected a general presentation on the benefits of meditation.

Sarath agrees. "People may or may not call meditation spiritual," he says. "But if [critics] don't want any talk of spirituality in the academy, they should look at all the other areas, from psychology to life sciences, where this dialogue is taking place."

At Michigan, that dialogue is happening in some unexpected places. Rita Benn, a member of Sarath's network and a longtime meditator, is education director of the U-M's integrative medicine program: "We have a separate program in my department for faculty, and we teach them concepts and theories related to alternative medicine—from herbal therapies and chiropractic techniques to acupuncture and meditation. So faculty learn the research around these issues. Then they experience these different healing modalities themselves, including meditation. They love it—we have more applicants than we have spaces. At the end of the year many tell me the program has changed their lives."

If both students and faculty are so interested in contemplative practices, why have universities been slow to accept the field as an academic discipline? In Benn's view, it comes down to academia's stubborn insistence on objective knowledge. "I think our institution is a very big research-based institution, and the only way the university will buy into meditative practices is when we show there's research and evidence to support their benefits," she says with a shrug. "But that body of knowledge is being accumulated."

According to Benn, research even lends credibility to some of Sarath's more ambitious claims. "There are now scientific studies showing that areas of the brain that are related to compassion and positive well-being are enhanced by meditation," she says. "I saw this in action in a study I did on Transcendental Meditation in a charter school in Detroit. I organized a clinical control trial, and some students meditated for three months while other students did not. And we found that meditating students felt more positive in their daily life, and had less negative emotions than their nonmeditating peers. As more and more studies emerge showing these kinds of results, then a more conventional body like the university will feel more comfortable advocating the kinds of changes that Ed wants to see."

Sarath points out that in recent years contemplative practices have found their way into the curricula of more than eighty institutions, including Columbia, the University of Massachusetts, Harvard, and Yale. But in spite of the increasing presence of meditative practices in higher education, advocates lament that their work still isn't taken seriously by the academic mainstream. When Sarath organized a national conference last fall called "Creativity, Consciousness, and the Academy," the mood was more frustrated than triumphant.

Arthur Zajonc, a physics professor at Amherst and a leading light of the contemplative studies movement, illustrated the problem succinctly. He asked the audience how many of them served in administration at their universities. No hands went up, and as the crowd chuckled, Sarath spoke up: "We had one administrator sign up—but they were a no-show."

Nodding sagely, Zajonc summed up the dilemma: "If we present contemplative studies only as a tool for stress reduction, [the administration] will say, 'That's very nice, but it belongs in student services' "—but if advocates promote what they see as the deeper benefits of meditation, administrators instinctively recoil: "When a colleague wrote a course proposal that had the word *compassion* in the name, the administration turned it down, saying, 'We don't teach "compassion" here!' "

Zajonc sighed. "Most people think of knowledge as something external, something measurable—something separate from our ways of living. We need to add a new component to what it means to know. Contemplative inquiry is—if we dare say the word in the academy—an epistemology of love." ■

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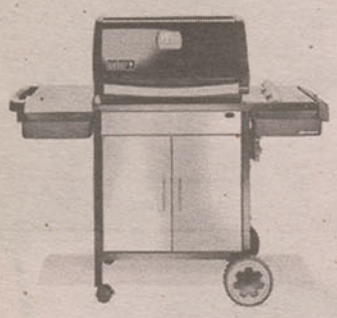

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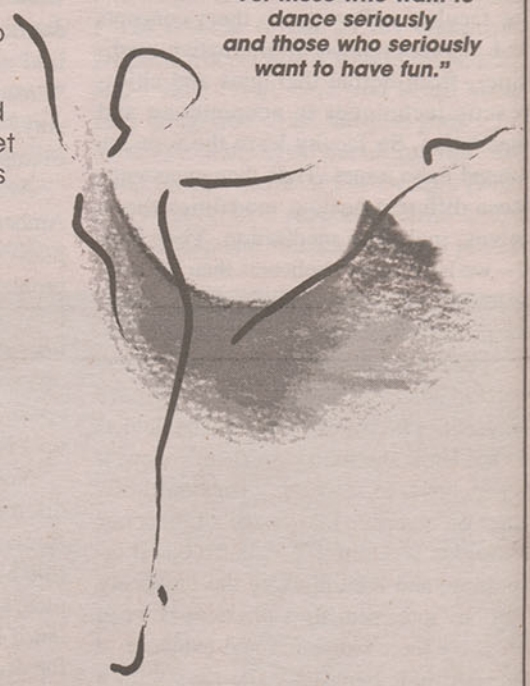

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WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

The city has adopted a radical new plan to take road space away from cars and give it to bikes. But will it be implemented? And if it is, will any more Ann Arborites bike?

by Michael Betzold

When she moved here from San Francisco, Marion Payet expected Ann Arbor to be a friendly place to bike. But the first time she rode on Huron Street, a car slowed and squeezed her into the curb. A week later, an impatient driver honked, cut her off, stopped, got out of his car, and started yelling at her.

"It's really shocking how pedestrians and bicyclists are treated here," says Payet, who teaches part time at the U-M. "It's not what I expected at all. When my husband's done with school, we'll be leaving town."

More than thirty years after Ann Arbor designated its first bike paths, the network remains incomplete and incoherent. Despite heavy promotion, few commuters bicycle to work in good weather—and still fewer try to do so in the winter (I'm one of them—see "My Commute," p. 63). Meanwhile, vehicle traffic continues to grow—adding to the tension between motorists and cyclists.

But the real battle for the pavement has just begun. Early this year, city council adopted a new Nonmotorized Transportation Plan that, depending on your point of view, is either crazy or long overdue. The NMTP calls for adding bike lanes to most of the city's main arteries—and removing lanes for cars and trucks. In fact, for the first time, the city has adopted a policy that explicitly puts the needs of the minority of people who bike and walk above the convenience of the vast majority of people who travel by car.

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

The city's Eli Cooper believes that anyone who lives within five miles of downtown should be able to bike to work or school.

"I'm bigger than you"

Is Ann Arbor a cyclist's paradise? It depends on your perspective. Compared to the rest of Michigan, it seems cool: fewer motorists flip you the bird or run you off the road, and there are all those great bike paths along the river. But if, like Marion Payet, you are expecting a Portland kind of vibe, welcome to Motown West.

The American League of Bicyclists rates Ann Arbor and thirty-nine other cities as "bronze" winners of its "bicycle-friendly communities" awards. Eighteen cities, including Chicago, are rated higher. Ridership here is dismal: data from the 2000 census showed 2.4 percent of Ann Arborites commuting by bike, compared to 3.3 percent in Madison, Wisconsin; 6 percent in Berkeley, California; and 7.4 percent in Boulder, Colorado.

With recent additions on West Liberty and West Stadium, Ann Arbor now has bike lanes on 20 percent of its major roads. Yet the city's bike network remains a patchwork of stop-and-start bicycle lanes, off-road "shared-used paths," and dangerous "sidewalk bicycle routes"—broken up by stretches of no accommodations at all.

Riding in this environment can be daunting. "Every few weeks I have a life-flashing-before-my-eyes type of experience," says Steven Kronenberg, who commutes by bike from his northwest-side home to his job at the U-M Medical Center. Riding on Miller Avenue, he says, he's often pushed to the side of the road by traffic going the same direction, or has to slam on his brakes when oncoming cars turn in front of him. One recent scare came when an AATA bus forced him off the road while he was traveling fast downhill. Another time he was cut off by the driver of an SUV, who explained, "I'm bigger than you."

That attitude is common on the street, but it's rarely heard in City Hall. In Ann Arbor it's politically incorrect to suggest that cyclists are second-class citizens. One of the few people who spoke out publicly against the NMTP was an outsider—landscape architect Keith Bruder, who lives in Augusta Township and works out of Belleville. Bruder told city council that bicyclists have no standing to demand road improvements—because only motor vehicles pay the fees and taxes that fund road maintenance.

"Bicyclists want a free ride," Bruder complains. "But bicyclists do not build or maintain the highways. Our economy runs on automobiles. I don't think bicyclists should expect they can go anywhere an automobile goes."

And Bruder thinks bicyclists get special treatment: "They run red lights and weave in and out of traffic, and it's okay—they never get tickets."

Actually, the police do ticket bicyclists—and they agree that careless riders are a problem. Asked about bicycle-car collisions, lieutenant Kurum Sheikh makes a point of saying, "From our experience, it's often bicyclists who are behaving recklessly and disregarding the law."

State law says that cars and bicycles must share the road. In practice, though, both motorists and bicyclists often are fuzzy about what that means. People like Bruder rant about cyclists who take over the middle of the vehicle lane. But if the roadway near the curb is dangerously pot-

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

Steven Kronenberg cycles to work, but "every few weeks I have a life-flashing-before-my-eyes type of experience," he says.

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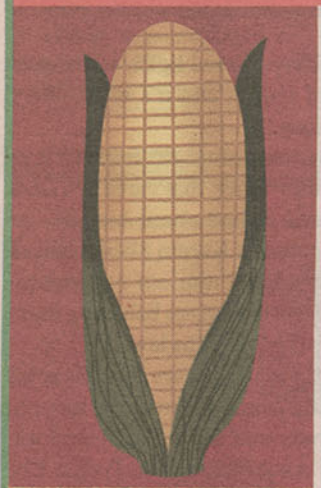

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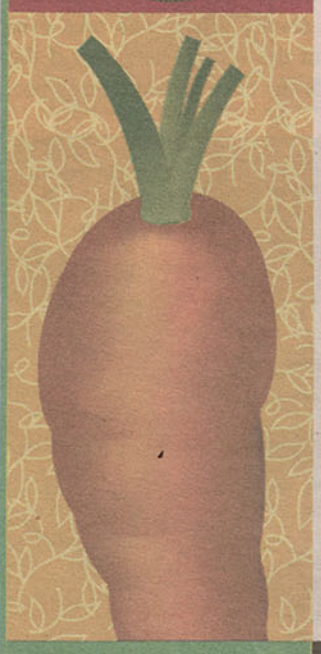

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food gatherers

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

continued

holed or clogged with debris, a cyclist may have no other safe recourse. And experienced cyclists have learned to keep a respectful distance from parked cars to avoid being "doored." Just last summer, a woman was thrown from her bike when a driver opened a car door in front of her.

Though the cyclist needed major surgery to repair a badly shattered arm, the police refused to write up an accident report, because she couldn't prove she actually collided with the car. That's one reason riders don't draw much reassurance from official Ann Arbor statistics showing that, since 2000, there has been an average of fewer than one crash per week involving a bike and a car (a total of thirty-seven in 2006), none of them fatal.

Most vehicles give bikes a wide berth—sometimes too wide, so they risk colliding with oncoming cars. But anyone who rides regularly is used to hearing motorists shout "Get on the sidewalk." Sometimes this is pure prejudice, but it also reflects a common misconception, one shared by many novice or casual bike riders: that it's safer for bikes to be off the road.

All studies indicate exactly the opposite: except for children and very inexperienced adult riders, the most dangerous place to bike is the sidewalk. That's not only because of the risks of colliding with pedestrians, but also because drivers backing out of driveways or turning onto streets don't usually look for bikes on sidewalks. Also, despite the city's recent repair program, sidewalks still have dangerous cracks and humps, and some street crossings don't have curb cuts.

Yet there are still, scattered throughout the city, signs designating "sidewalk bike routes" that were put up decades ago. If along the same road there are stretches of street bike lanes, off-road designated bike paths, and no bike accommodations at all, who can blame motorists for not knowing where to expect to encounter cyclists?

The NMTP concedes that on a few routes with limited pedestrian traffic, such as Huron Parkway, off-road shared-use paths make sense, as long as they are maintained. But with few exceptions, the new plan advocates putting bike lanes on major thoroughfares, citing research that shows it's the safest solution.

Boosted by the new lanes on Liberty and Stadium, the city's bike lane mileage has almost doubled in the last three years, from ten miles to eighteen miles. The NMTP's "near term" projection calls for tripling that total, to fifty-eight miles. The long-term goal is seventy-eight miles, covering 85 percent of the major arteries in town.

To accomplish even the short-term plan would mean reducing several major arteries from four lanes to three or two. The streets targeted include Fifth Avenue and Division downtown, Packard south of Stadium, North Main north of downtown, Jackson east of Maple, Maple between Dexter and Miller, Green Road, and Platt between Packard and Ellsworth.

Two-wheeled dreams

Two years ago, the city created a new job—transportation program manager—and hired Eli Cooper to fill it. Cooper helped shepherd the NMTP to completion. He's a dynamic spokesman for the city's oft-stated commitment to get citizens out of their cars by promoting biking, walking, and riding the bus. Cooper believes that virtually anyone living within five miles of downtown—in other words, the city's entire population—should be able to bike to work or school.

No one expects that everybody will; even in Boulder, after all, twelve out of thirteen people still commute by car. But if someone suggests that Ann Arborites can't break free of Michigan's car-dependent lifestyle, Cooper pulls out two huge wall charts. One shows that the percentage of U.S. citizens who use cars for daily trips rose from 60 percent in 1960 to nearly 90 percent in 2000. The other shows that in Ann Arbor, the percentage rose to only about 70 percent in the same span. The twenty-point differential looks impressive—until you realize that car-challenged U-M undergrads alone make up more than 20 percent of the city's population.

Won't narrowing streets like Platt and Jackson impede the 70 percent of Ann Arborites who *do* use cars daily? Not according to Cooper. He sketches lanes on a whiteboard in his office, illustrating how traffic can move more smoothly when cars traveling in each direction share a single left-turn lane. And he refers to "road diet" training manuals for transportation planners that show the success of this approach in San Francisco and elsewhere.

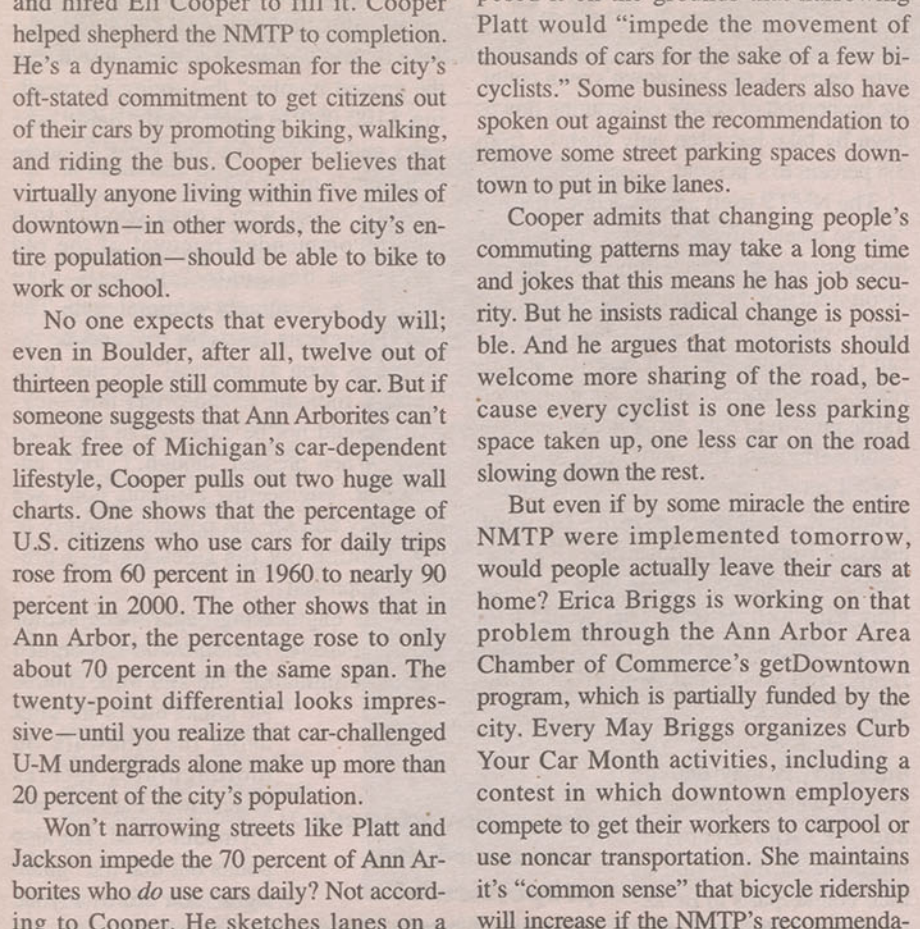
Still, not everyone is convinced. When council was considering the NMTP, conservative activist David Sponseller opposed it on the grounds that narrowing Platt would "impede the movement of thousands of cars for the sake of a few bicyclists." Some business leaders also have spoken out against the recommendation to remove some street parking spaces downtown to put in bike lanes.

Cooper admits that changing people's commuting patterns may take a long time and jokes that this means he has job security. But he insists radical change is possible. And he argues that motorists should welcome more sharing of the road, because every cyclist is one less parking space taken up, one less car on the road slowing down the rest.

But even if by some miracle the entire NMTP were implemented tomorrow, would people actually leave their cars at home? Erica Briggs is working on that problem through the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce's getDowntown program, which is partially funded by the city. Every May Briggs organizes Curb Your Car Month activities, including a contest in which downtown employers compete to get their workers to carpool or use noncar transportation. She maintains it's "common sense" that bicycle ridership will increase if the NMTP's recommendations are implemented.

The question is how much. More downtown workers do ride their bikes during May, and the experience has permanently changed the way some people get to work. But when the pressure's off, most of the May cyclists go back to driving. In the last

MAKING ROOM FOR BIKES



The city's new Nonmotorized Transportation Plan explicitly puts the needs of the minority of people who bike and walk above the convenience of the majority who drive. The thick black lines show streets that would lose motor vehicle lanes to make room for bike paths.

JUJITSU
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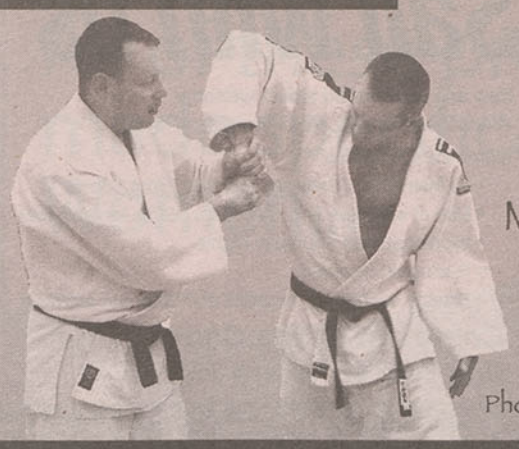
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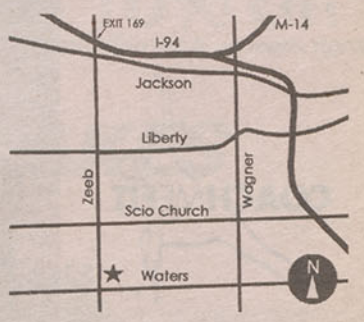

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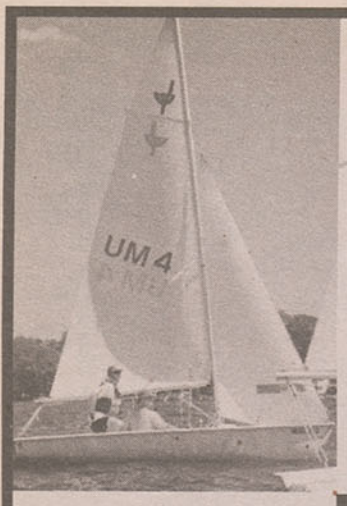

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Lindsay Bogdasarian, Owner

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

continued

three years, by getDowntown's own count, the proportion of people commuting downtown by bike has risen only slightly, from 3.6 percent to 4 percent.

The NMTP itself acknowledges there is "sparse research" on whether "changes in transportation choices will occur if the environment for bicycling and walking is improved." It also admits that the city can't control the effects of sprawl—and already, "the largest source for motorized traffic growth in Ann Arbor is external."

Nonetheless, the study suggests that "based on a combination of professional judgment, analysis of existing facilities, and data from other similar cities," a "reasonable target" would be to increase bicycling trips to 6 percent. That would be a 150 percent increase over the 2000 census figure, and would put Ann Arbor at the level of Berkeley.

How "reasonable" you think that is may depend on how well you like snow and ice. Ann Arborites might be as motivated as their counterparts in Berkeley, but the climate here is much harsher. On average, the college town on San Francisco Bay sees below-freezing temperatures just one day a year. Ann Arbor averages 139 days with freezing temperatures—more than one-third of the year.

By getDowntown's own count, the proportion of people commuting downtown by bike has risen only slightly in the last three years, from 3.6 percent to 4 percent.

Yet even if its goal can't be achieved, the NMTP argues, the improvements are worth making just to increase the safety of existing riders. Briggs agrees: "It's ridiculous, it's shameful that people, even experienced cyclists, are afraid to ride in this city."

Of two minds

Whether the result is more riders or just more safety for present riders, the city has committed to the NMTP. But will it follow through?

Money is not a major obstacle. Prodded by mayor John Hieftje, an ardent proponent of alternative transportation, Ann Arbor spends 5 percent of its transportation budget on nonvehicular travel—five times the state-mandated minimum. Council unanimously adopted the NMTP when it was presented in January. What it didn't do, though, was set a timetable to implement the plan's recommendations.

Cooper, the city's transportation program manager, says the city is committed to pushing forward—but he also notes that it's easiest to make major changes when roads have reached the end of their pavement life and are due for rebuilding anyway. In other words, while the NMTP sets new standards for bike and pedestrian friendliness, roads won't necessarily be reconfigured any faster than they have been in the past.

Cooper points to a steady and continuing increase in measures to make the city more accommodating to bikes: this year, a ten-foot-wide shared-use pedestrian bike path will close a notable gap along Washtenaw Avenue between Glenwood and Tuomy, and Cooper says the city will "hit the ground running" this spring by spending $100,000 to temporarily paint bike lanes and put up bike-lane signs on some of the city's major arteries.

But Cooper won't even commit to a long-recommended removal of the old signs that designate "sidewalk bike routes"—a seemingly minimal step. The NMTP suggests the signs "should be removed as soon as practical" because they "falsely indicate to motorists that bicyclists should not be expected in the roadway." When pressed, though, Cooper admits that "engineering elements don't see the safety and see the potential liability of not pointing out the sidewalk as a preferred approach."

In the engineering department, senior project manager Les Sipowski has argued against eliminating the sidewalk routes. He thinks bikers are safer using the sidewalk on thoroughfares such as Eisenhower Parkway and Plymouth Road. He also points out that the "guide signs" don't force anyone to ride off the road. He says the signs will come down "as quickly as possible," because "we have to follow what is adopted by city council"—but won't say when that will happen.

Cycling advocates see the foot-dragging as emblematic of the city's divergent sympathies over bike issues. Some privately say they fear the new plan won't ever be fully implemented. In their view, officials say all the right things about alternative transportation but continue to do otherwise. At the same meeting where city council approved the NMTP, for instance, it also authorized the city to entice Google to come downtown by offering the company 400 free parking spaces.

And no amount of road reconfiguration can enforce mutual respect. "Even if we had bike lanes everywhere, it's not enough," says Kronenberg, the bike commuter. "No matter how much effort the city makes, no complete separation of the spheres is possible." He says that motorists and bicyclists must learn to get along, while alternatives to cars are promoted—especially in the public schools.

Cooper, Briggs, and others plan to launch a new educational campaign this year that will take the message beyond "Share the road" to something more dynamic and specific. It's clear that Ann Arbor will continue to promote biking as a good thing for business, the environment, personal health, and quality of life. It's less clear how soon the city's roadways will actually reflect those stated priorities. And until they do, no one will be able to say for sure whether all of this effort will really get more people to trade four wheels for two. ■

MY COMMUTE

City transportation program manager Eli Cooper contends anyone in Ann Arbor could bike to work. He's welcome to join me on my daily commute, which traverses most of the pitfalls of local biking.

GRIFFIN LINDSAY

Writer Michael Betzold illustrates one of the many hazards of two-wheeled commuting: getting "doored" by a careless motorist.

It's five miles long—but the distance is not the hard part. Let's take the evening trip home. Start in Kerrytown and try to negotiate downtown rush-hour traffic. The streets are packed, and the curbs are lined with parked cars, some occupied by drivers who could open their door in front of you at any moment. Steer clear, and try to ignore the angry shouts of motorists who want to squeeze you back.

Once you reach Liberty, enjoy the two-mile uphill ride to West Stadium Boulevard (or put your bike on a rack on an AATA bus and ride, using the getDowntown bus pass provided free by your employer—a very nice option for a weary worker). If you pedal all the way up Liberty, watch out at Seventh as your bike lane disappears to accommodate a left-turn lane for cars. A sign suggests you use the "sidewalk bike route" to get through the intersection, but you face a Hobson's choice. Staying on the road means competing for space with motorists anxious to beat the light. But going on the sidewalk means competing with pedestrians, being less visible for turning cars, and, worst of all, trying to merge back into heavy traffic when the bike lane resumes a few dozen feet beyond the intersection.

The rest of the way to Stadium is beautiful: a new road with bike lanes and pedestrian islands. I take some credit for that—I used to live here, and joined with other Eberwhite neighborhood residents to beat back a city plan to widen the road a few years back. But note that the car traffic, limited to one outgoing lane, does tend to back up a long way before Stadium. Glide past the traffic jam on the right-hand side, feeling morally superior. You'll need the boost to get through the rest of the trip.

Between Stadium and Maple the bike lanes disappear as the road changes suddenly to a five-lane scramble (the city wouldn't put in bike lanes on this stretch when it repaved Liberty and Stadium). West of Maple there is a bike lane on the south side of Liberty, but that does you no good when you're going west. To get over I-94, you have two harrowing choices: try to cross the road in heavy traffic to reach the pedestrian bridge on the south side (and then cross back to the north side afterward), or stay on the north side. If you pick the latter, try not to imagine how easy it would be for one of the cars squeezing by to knock you over the low abutment onto the freeway.

Past I-94 a bike lane suddenly reappears, put in when the road was repaved rather carelessly last summer after a new condo project was built. Don't get trapped in the pavement gashes left by road graders in the bike lane.

Now the real fun begins. In the mile up to Wagner Road you must negotiate, in quick succession, the sudden disappearance of the bike lane; a narrow, rutted paved shoulder; a gaping hole of gravel where a shoulder might be; a short stretch of paved shoulder; then no shoulder again; and finally a patch of newer concrete shoulders with some treacherous pavement seams. Along this stretch, cars have no room to pass, and traffic is heavy. If someone yells at you to "get off the road," simply shrug: your only other option is a rutted old "shared-use path" that ends abruptly in the middle of a lawn. Trade in your former sense of smugness for sheer terror and a feeling of utter abandonment.

West of Wagner, you're in Scio Township. Now all you have to do is watch out for fallen branches, roadkill, and the occasional live animal as cars whiz past you at fifty miles an hour. You're almost home, you've had a free half-hour workout, you saved money on gas and parking, and you lived to tell the tale.

—M.B.

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Restaurant Reviews

Bella Ciao

Proust's gnocchi

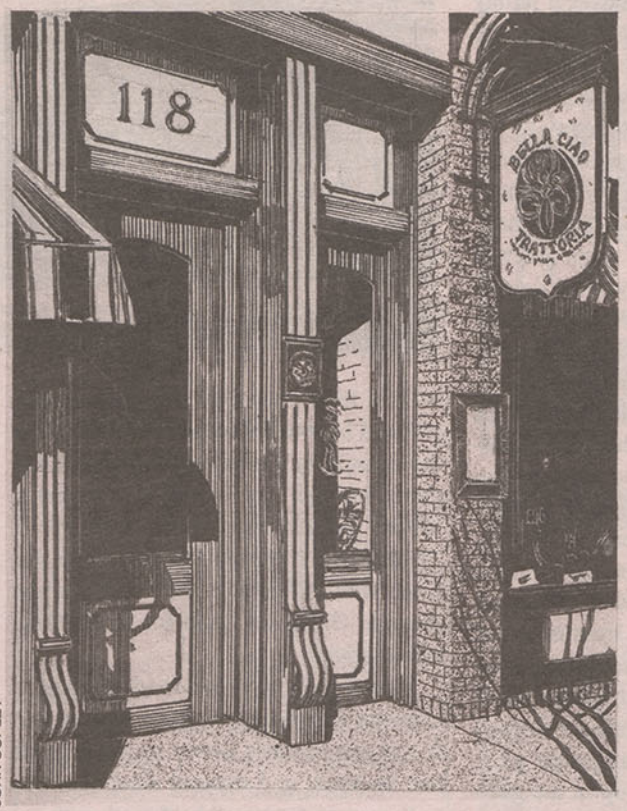
A superb dish lingers on in sensual memory like Proust's madeleine. Among my local madeleines are Zingerman's fried chicken, Eve's nachos, TK Wu's jalapeño chicken, and—in the case at hand—Bella Ciao's lush four-cheese gnocchi (oh, and maybe the rustic penne and sausage, too).

So I was concerned when I heard last spring that Bella Ciao had a new chef, Josh Taylor. Would he unravel my beautiful memories of Bella Ciao? I interviewed Taylor on the phone and later met him briefly when he came through the bustling dining room on New Year's Eve. But that's one night when the food doesn't really count (in fact, aside from the joy of friends around the table, the best part of that dinner was the loquacious staffer who was feeding us juicy gossip about every other restaurant in town). Alas, as happens in the quickly changing restaurant scene, the new guy was history by February, before I had a chance to really sample his wares.

I was sorry—Taylor sounded like an interesting character—but I also had to breathe a little sigh of relief that longtime owner Jim MacDonald was back overseeing kitchen operations (I'm guessing he never really left). Still, I thought I'd better go and check on my gnocchi.

Bella Ciao's one-page menu changes each month, with many staple dishes done up in seasonally appropriate garb. My first evening back, the gnocchi had a creamy herbed sauce with just a whisper of tomato flavor surrounding the little egg-shaped bits of potato pasta. This preparation was subtler, but it was also lighter—springier—than the four-cheese version (which I have to say remains my favorite). The honor of best appetizer at our table fell instead to the feathery ravioli stuffed with a portobello puree and served with a sage-butter sauce. As with the gnocchi, the ravioli weren't as heavy as one might anticipate with that pasta and sauce. The other two starters we tried, risotto and calamari, were less successful. The risotto of the day sounded delicious, and while its crisp spears of white asparagus lent an interesting textural element, the rice lacked that essential bit of bite, and overall the dish was too bland. Grilled calamari had the opposite problem—a texture so rubbery it could barely be cut with a knife, but big, bright flavors from garlic and rosemary.

That night, the main courses around our table ranged from subtly complex to frankly robust. The pancetta-wrapped shrimp offered a lovely striptease, unveiling layers of flavors—first the salty pancetta and then the balancing sweetness of the prawn inside. A geometric wedge of grilled polenta and fresh sautéed spinach finished off the plate. The duck breast had



JOHN COPLEY

a pepper crust that gave way to rosy meat for swirling in a cream sauce, with Israeli couscous on the side. A thick, moist pork chop paired perfectly with a mound of mashed potatoes garnished with a sprig of rosemary, whose flavor also infused the creamy spuds. And that penne with house-made sausage, which has been on the menu since Bella Ciao opened, is as delicious as ever—on this visit liberally studded with hot peppers and rapini, and topped with grated Romano cheese. What a dish.

That dinner was so delightful that we slipped in again, just the two of us, on a rainy Tuesday. Slow nights let you see another facet of a restaurant's personality, and this one showed Bella Ciao as a quiet, romantic, and very personal place. Owner MacDonald met us at the door, took coats, and led us to a cozy booth. We started with a couple of small salads. My husband had a simple toss of baby greens with vinegar and olive oil; the handful of greens on my plate were past their prime but were punctuated by a well-balanced combination of sweet blood oranges and snap of sliced onion.

It has long seemed to me that Bella Ciao takes as much of its inspiration from France as from Italy, and this was clearly the case with my *bourrida,* a classic Mediterranean seafood stew and close cousin to *bourride provençal*. It was built on a rich fish stock swirling with garlic, saffron, and tomatoes. Scallops, calamari, mussels, shrimp, tiny whole potatoes, and a small fillet of salmon were arranged around the shallow bowl, each to savor on its own or dip in the sauce. A garlicky rouille was served in a little ramekin on the side, and the server brought a basket of sliced toasts to be smeared with the garlic sauce and then drenched in the broth. My husband's simple beef fillet was more straightforward, perhaps, but nevertheless satisfying: a fork-tender cut, perfectly cooked, with a simple shallot-brandy sauce, and just a small blast of creaminess from a tangy Gorgonzola. We lingered after dinner, sipping wee cups of espresso.

Old-timers will feel a comfortable familiarity in the room, which is still defined first by its narrow nineteenth-century-rowhouse outlines, and second by the masses of fabric draping the ceiling that give it a romantic, fairy-tale quality. Everything works effortlessly here (effortlessly for the diner, anyway). In my notes, I characterized the servers with two words: *discretion* and *direction*. Our servers could recommend the right wine and could say with clarity what looked good in the kitchen that night. They never hovered or interrupted, but they appeared when we needed them.

Bella Ciao turns twenty this year and continues to age well: keeping the essence, updating the approach, and still providing Ann Arbor with a place to create new food memories.

Bella Ciao
118 West Liberty **995–2107**

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Appetizers $7–$10, salads $3.50–$6, entrees $18–$38, desserts $6

Disability access poor; main dining room is at street level, but restrooms are down steep stairs

Seoul Korner

Kult status

What Seoul Korner lacks in kurb appeal, it makes up for in kult status. In the 1970s this was Biff's Diner, a 24/7 joint frequented by cult punk-rocker Iggy Pop when he and the Stooges were still banging heads around Ann Arbor. The current incarnation (since 1992) has won its own cult following among Korean-food aficionados as one of the few local restaurants offering *dol sot bi bim bop,* the classic rice dish served in a hot stone bowl.

From the outside, the oddly angled building at East William and Thompson still has the outlines of the gas station it once was. It's lackluster inside, too—dingy gauze curtains frame picture win-

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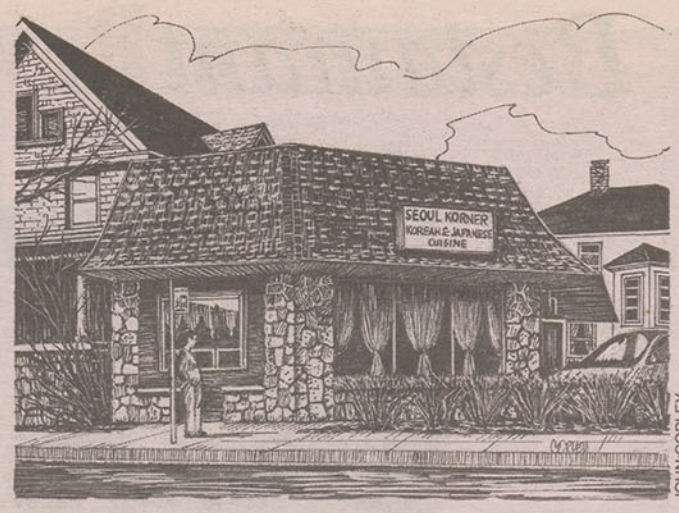
dows, the floor is tiled in a kind of gray-beige, and wood paneling moves it farther down on the cheerfulness meter. In the background, abstract jazz fills in the cracks of multilingual conversations. Dining areas branch off the entryway to the left and right, but since I was here on a specific dol sot mission, I went straight ahead to place my order at the counter. Then I asked for the ladies' room and was told, "You pay first. The restroom's outside." The logic of getting the money up front became clear after one of the more adventurous loo-treks in town, which included briefly transiting the parking lot and then ducking lumber and other obstacles in what looked like the meat-cutting room behind the kitchen. After all that, hand towels would have been a nice touch.

Back in the dining room, there was a longish wait for my food, but I travel with plenty to read. I looked up from my book when the young server arrived with a standard bi bim bop. I started to explain it wasn't my order, but the manager stepped into the middle of the language gulf, scolding until tears welled up in the girl's eyes. I can only imagine the boss was saying "No, the *other* old white lady," because the food was immediately whisked to the only other middle-aged non-Asian woman in the place.

Not long after that, it really was my turn. I heard my dol sot bi bim bop before I saw it, the loud sizzle-crackle of rice in a hot stoneware bowl. What I then saw was gorgeous: orangey bright grated carrot, the sunny yolk of a perfectly fried egg, squiggles of bean sprouts, vivid green spinach, transparently thin sliced zucchini, and grilled beef the shiny black-brown hue of soy sauce. All of this was layered over the generous bowl of rice that was being transformed in front of me as it built a firm crust against the bottom of that hot bowl—adding yet another textural element. I dotted the artistic arrangement judiciously with *gochu jang* hot sauce, mixed it up, and proceeded to savor, sometimes picking out bites of meat or vegetables for a unique flavor, sometimes adding a bit of this to a bit of that. Toward the end I used my chopsticks to scrape off the prized crunchy rice, which cooks to a deep gold color but stops miraculously short of burning. It was superb.

As with nearly every Korean meal, my crispy bi bim bop was served with side dishes *(panchan)*. In this case, there were three of them: a classic kimchi of chilies and brined, fermented cabbage; a spicy radish kimchi; and a cooling grated radish in a sweet vinegary sauce. A plate of eight steamed dumplings, ordered as a starter, arrived just after the dol sot bi bim bop. But I was so besotted by the main course that the dumplings failed to register. In any case, there was too much food, so I packed them to go; sautéed later at home, the dumplings proved to be carefully constructed packets of chopped vegetables, so beefy that I'm still not quite sure I



JOHN COPLEY

believe their purported nonmeat origins. (When I later called to find out more about the dumpling contents, the man on the phone insisted they were only vegetables. When I guessed mushrooms, he answered, "Probably.") I ignored the miso soup that came with the entree; one bland sip was enough. Green tea, paid for in advance, never arrived.

Given the site's fast-food heritage, a carryout experiment seemed appropriate. It was one of those snowy spring days we had in April, so I ordered *dduk man doo guk,* an even-tempered beef broth with voluminous trimmings: thin-sliced scallions, more of those gingery mystery dumplings, swirled egg, and dduk, which are soft rice-flour dumplings the size and shape of an egg, sliced vertically. We also tried the *yah chae bul go ki,* which combines the familiar grilled bul go ki (shaved beef) with thin-sliced onions, carrots, sprouts, and peppers sautéed in a soy-based sauce. This time the panchan side dishes included *cheongpo-muk,* mung-bean starch formed into thick, clear, gelatinous strips in a thin sauce dotted with fire-breathing chilies. Talk about weird mouth feel. The carryout was neatly packaged and traveled well. But that brilliant dol sot bi bim bop can be had in the dining room only.

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Clinton Inn

Hidden Lake roadhouse

"Who built these towns? Why here?" asked my husband as we cruised US-12 on our first road trip of the season, heading for the fabled Hidden Lake Gardens in Tipton. One of the towns along the way is Clinton, which sprang up in the late 1820s at a corner of strategic importance and natural bounty—where the Chicago Road met the River Raisin. The hospitality industry helped put Clinton on the map; one of its early roadhouses, built in 1831, was important enough to be targeted by Henry Ford, who had it taken apart and rebuilt for his Greenfield Village, where it now stands as the Eagle Tavern. A thriving town at the turn of the twentieth century, Clinton faded as newer routes took away its traffic. It's now pretty, uh, sleepy, especially in the off-season. On that first visit, at around 1 on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon in very early spring, there was not a soul on Main Street.

We headed to the Clinton Inn, whose imposing clock tower has dominated the two-block downtown since 1901. Although the inn has had many owners over the years, its old-time essence is intact. It's even a little spooky—creaky wooden floors, narrow hallways, high tin ceilings, and unsmiling portraits of abstemious ancestors registering across the ages their opinion of the eight kinds of martinis now available at the bar.

JOHN COPLEY

We found brunch set up in one of the two dining rooms and joined what felt like a local after-church crowd as neighbors greeted neighbors. The offerings were familiar standards including eggs Benedict, home fries, French toast, waffles, carved roast beef, and a basic selection of fruits and salads alongside a dessert table. Most dishes were well executed if not exceptional, but a few stood out. Rashers of bacon were perfectly crisped and piled high; cooked-to-order omelets were skillfully rendered with sautéed mushrooms. The blueberry muffins were fresh, a welcome respite from sugary, industrial mega-muffins. The hot drink selection included a variety of organic green teas.

We left fortified and continued on to

Hidden Lake Gardens, about a ten-minute drive from the inn. This was the real object of our excursion: 750 glorious acres on the edge of the Irish Hills. If the Clinton Inn had seemed in another century compared to Ann Arbor, Hidden Lake Gardens was in another country (but less than forty-five nonfreeway minutes away). That first day we checked out the small conservatory and hiked to work off brunch, up the hills along well-marked paths, back down, and around the lake, where the honk of an endangered trumpeter swan echoed around the hills.

The next week we went back to hike the trail up 1,061-foot Cobbler's Knob with dog Tansy enthusiastically leading her human pack. Along the way we passed a kettlehole carved out of the landscape by receding glaciers, where we were astonished by what sounded like thousands of frogs in the crater's boggy recesses. It was still too early for flowers, but bulbs were already poking their shoots out of the ground, and buds jammed the branches. May is spectacular here, opening with the garden's tens of thousands of daffodils and moving on to magnolia, crab apple, and cherry trees in bloom.

Beat and hungry after the long hike, we nearly headed to Tecumseh, where we like the slightly goofy Tea Garden Cafe and the ambitious Evans Street Station. But we decided to take the direct route home and hit the Clinton Inn again for an early supper. I chose a dish I imagined might have been on the menu 100 years ago—a chicken potpie with a biscuit topping. Although apparently homemade, with chunks of chicken breast and cubed potatoes, it lacked almost any seasoning, and the herb-cheddar biscuit was leaden. My husband's respectable burger and fries proved the wisdom of a simpler approach to ordering.

Is this food worth a special trip? Probably not, but Hidden Lake Gardens definitely is, and the Clinton Inn has a unique quirky charm worth a stop on your way there (especially Sunday brunch). As we left, there wasn't much life on Clinton's Main Street. This time we found ourselves asking not who built these towns and why, but what's next for them?

—Bix Engels

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table talk

What *is* Michigan food? If you answered cherries and whitefish, that's just a start—coneys, pasties, paczki, and lots more belong in there too.

The question will be explored in depth over the next year in ***Michigan Foodways,*** a traveling exhibition mainly sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council and the Smithsonian Institution and curated by the MSU Museum. The first stop on the tour is Chelsea, where the exhibit opens May 26 in the beautifully updated McKune Memorial Library on Main Street.

Greg Parker of the Michigan Humanities Council explains that this show is part of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program, which brings exhibitions to small towns and rural communities across the country. The Smithsonian's *Key Ingredients: America by Food* focused on the culture of food in America—how it influences society in everything from table manners to health to agriculture and industry. Now *Key Ingredients* is moving out to the states in the *Foodways* exhibitions, which look at chow from national, state, and uniquely local perspectives.

Parker says the emphasis in Chelsea will be on institutions that epitomize the deep and varied aspects of local food. Jiffy Mix, the family-run business started by Mabel Holmes in 1930 that now sells 1.6 million boxes of mix every day, represents the important local-business contribution of the food industry. The Chelsea Fair is evidence of Washtenaw County's still vibrant farming and livestock culture. The Common Grill is a model for how a restaurant can help revitalize downtown—and owner Craig Common helped underwrite the show by hosting an exceptional fund-raising dinner of Michigan specialties on March 19.

Michigan Foodways will open with a Chelsea Food Faire at the library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 26; look for a Taste of Michigan tent, a chefs' tent, a demonstration by Zingerman's Creamery, live music from Chef Chris and the Blue Plate Specials, and lots of family-friendly activities such as observing baby animals (there's more info at chelsea.lib.mi.us). From Chelsea the exhibit will travel to Calumet, Cheboygan, Whitehall, and Frankenmuth before it winds up in Dundee next spring.

—B. E.

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a provincial sandwich of thinly sliced leg of lamb with olives, arugula, radishes, tomatoes, fresh basil and balsamic vinaigrette on a warm baguette with feta cheese fries 10

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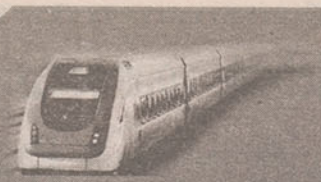

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Marketplace Changes

by Sally Horvath & Tony McReynolds

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Self-described foodie Miyoko Honma couldn't find a good baguette—so she opened her own bakery and cafe.

Baguettes and sushi at Cafe Japon

Miyoko Honma follows her bliss

Japon is French for "Japan," and **Cafe Japon** serves sushi, but the name reveals Miyoko Honma's true passion: she opened the place because she couldn't find a decent French baguette.

When Honma decided to retire after twenty-three years as a manager with Japanese car parts giant Auto Denso, opening a restaurant wasn't in her plans. The idea first popped into her head a year ago when she saw that the former Blimpie Subs space on East Liberty was vacant. It seemed like the perfect place to bake her own baguettes. There was just one hitch.

She didn't know how.

Born and raised in Japan and a self-described "foodie since college," Honma loved to cook but hadn't done much baking. A fellow foodie who shared her love of baguettes urged her to try. "We were always talking about baguettes and where to get good ones," Honma says. A resident of the United States since 1978, she still speaks with a noticeable accent. "I promised him I would come up with a good recipe."

Baguette is, aptly, French for "little stick." Baguettes are generally two to three inches wide, one to two inches tall, and up to three feet long. They came into vogue in 1920, when a new law forbade French bakers from working before 4 a.m. There was no time for them to bake traditional round loaves for people's breakfasts—but there was time to bake the slender baguettes.

Although she's a good cook, Honma's only previous restaurant experience was moonlighting for three years as vice-president of a catering company that managed corporate cafeterias. To bake a good baguette, she'd need other skills. Within weeks of spotting the vacant space, and eight months shy of retirement, Honma left Auto Denso to enroll at the French Culinary Institute in New York. "My last day was the ninth. I was in New York on the tenth," she remembers.

In a town full of coffee shops, Honma also is looking for people who like tea. The Japanese take tea very seriously; you can take courses in Japan to earn a certificate as a "tea advisor." Honma earned hers last fall.

She took only bread courses, baking all day at the institute and working as a restaurant intern at night. And once she knew how to bake a baguette, she came home to perfect her own recipe. "All of that knowledge I learned from previous employers. I can do the comparison, the analyzing, those kinds of things," she says. "I analyzed all the recipes. Then I developed my own."

That kind of single-minded follow-through is second nature to her. "Working long hours, nights, and weekends was the norm at Japanese companies," laughs Honma. "I worked like crazy every day." It's what enabled her to put in brutal hours at Auto Denso and still find time to do things like run a catering company and play professional jazz piano.

Honma does all the baking at Cafe Japon, coming in early to make the baguettes, croissants, Danishes, and other assorted pastries. She makes Japanese bread from scratch, too. The big difference from French bread is the crust, or lack of. "French has crust. It's harder," Honma says. "Japanese has no crust. It's very soft."

At lunch, the big focus is on baguettes. Offerings include a Japanese steak baguette sandwich with a French sauce ("Sauce is key"), a crab cake baguette sandwich, and a pork cutlet baguette sandwich. Vegetarian choices include a grilled portobello mushroom baguette sandwich. Rounding out the menu is a selection of soups and salads, including a chicken salad with green onion sauce and a steak salad with sesame seed sauce. Breakfast fare includes ham and cheese croissant sandwiches, omelets, and Danishes. Most of these items range from $5 to $10. The many-talented Honma can make sushi, too, but she's hired a Japanese chef to handle that; sushi prices start at $7.

Cafe Japon's opening was delayed by several months because Honma had to redo the electricity and plumbing and install special ovens. The place is small—only eleven seats—so most of the business is carryout. As for her customers, she's looking for "foodies—people who like good French bread."

And in a town full of coffee shops, she's also looking for people who like tea. The Japanese take tea very seriously; you can take courses in Japan to earn a certificate as a "tea advisor." Honma earned hers last fall. "Green tea is very complicated—balancing the bitterness, sweetness," she says. "It's important for health. I want to be an advocate for the good qualities of tea. I think that's my challenge."

Challenge is a recurring theme with Honma. "To me retirement is not for sitting around, and not for going on vacation," she says. "I work hard to challenge myself."

Like opening a Japanese cafe so she can bake a good baguette.

Cafe Japon, 113 East Liberty, 332–6200. Daily 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

Games plugged and unplugged

Building community at Get Your Game On

When Alex Horvath says, "I'm as much a game store as I am a comic and video game store," he's not being redundant.

To Horvath, who opened **Get Your Game On** in the old Sake Bombs Depot on Packard in March, "games" means role-playing board games like Dungeons and Dragons, not video games. And while

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J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Alex and Brandy Horvath with daughters Ava and Macy at Get Your Game On. Alex feels lucky to have the only game store in town: "Every day I come in and do something I love."

video games get the press, role-playing games have a large and faithful following. Dungeons and Dragons itself, which came out in 1974 and more or less kick-started the role-playing game industry, is still the most popular, despite what Horvath calls its "almost Shaker-like aspect."

Like most of the other role-playing board games he carries, "D&D" consists of little more than a board, dice, and a complicated set of rules it can take years to master. But it's not just the game's spareness that brings the Shakers to mind. The nineteenth-century religious group emphasized community, and a sense of community is a big part of the game's appeal.

Horvath is a big believer in try-before-you-buy. He always has three board games set up and rotates them regularly, and there's a seventy-one-inch TV where customers can test drive video games.

"I think it's very important," Horvath says. "A lot of the gaming events are very social in nature. For someone not raised on video, they like the social aspect of D&D." Those tend to be older gamers, but Horvath says it attracts people raised on video games, too: "Sometimes they like to unplug and experience a different medium." More important, Horvath says, they like the chance to hang out with friends and meet new people.

Despite Horvath's appreciation for them, the board and role-playing games are in the back of the store, along with an extensive selection of comic books, toys, and graphic novels. Up front, Horvath sells video games, new and used (a twenty-year-old "vintage" Nintendo title can run as little as a buck). In one corner by the big front window, there's a seventy-one-inch TV where customers can test-drive video games before they buy. He demos one or two a week.

The former management and information technology consultant is a big believer in try-before-you-buy, especially with board games.

"It's hard to just look at a box you've never seen and decide if it's for me," says Horvath. To solve that problem, he put out tables where customers can try games out. He always has three board games set up and rotates them regularly. If someone is interested in a particular game, Horvath can give a quick lesson. Future plans include regular board game tournaments in the basement; a kids' corner stocked with youth-oriented comics, board games, and video games; and a four-by-eight-foot terrain table dedicated to Warhammer, a fantasy war game played with small figurines you buy and paint yourself.

Horvath and his wife, Brandy, a teacher, have two daughters—Macy, seven, and Ava, one and a half. They come into the store a couple of times a week; when he's between customers, Horvath will play board games with Macy. If it's a slow day, he lets her play a video game on the big-screen TV.

"I always wanted to own my own business," says Horvath, "so I looked around and I landed on something I could be passionate about." When he researched the market and discovered there were no game stores in town, "it was almost a no-brainer. Everyday I come in and do something I love."

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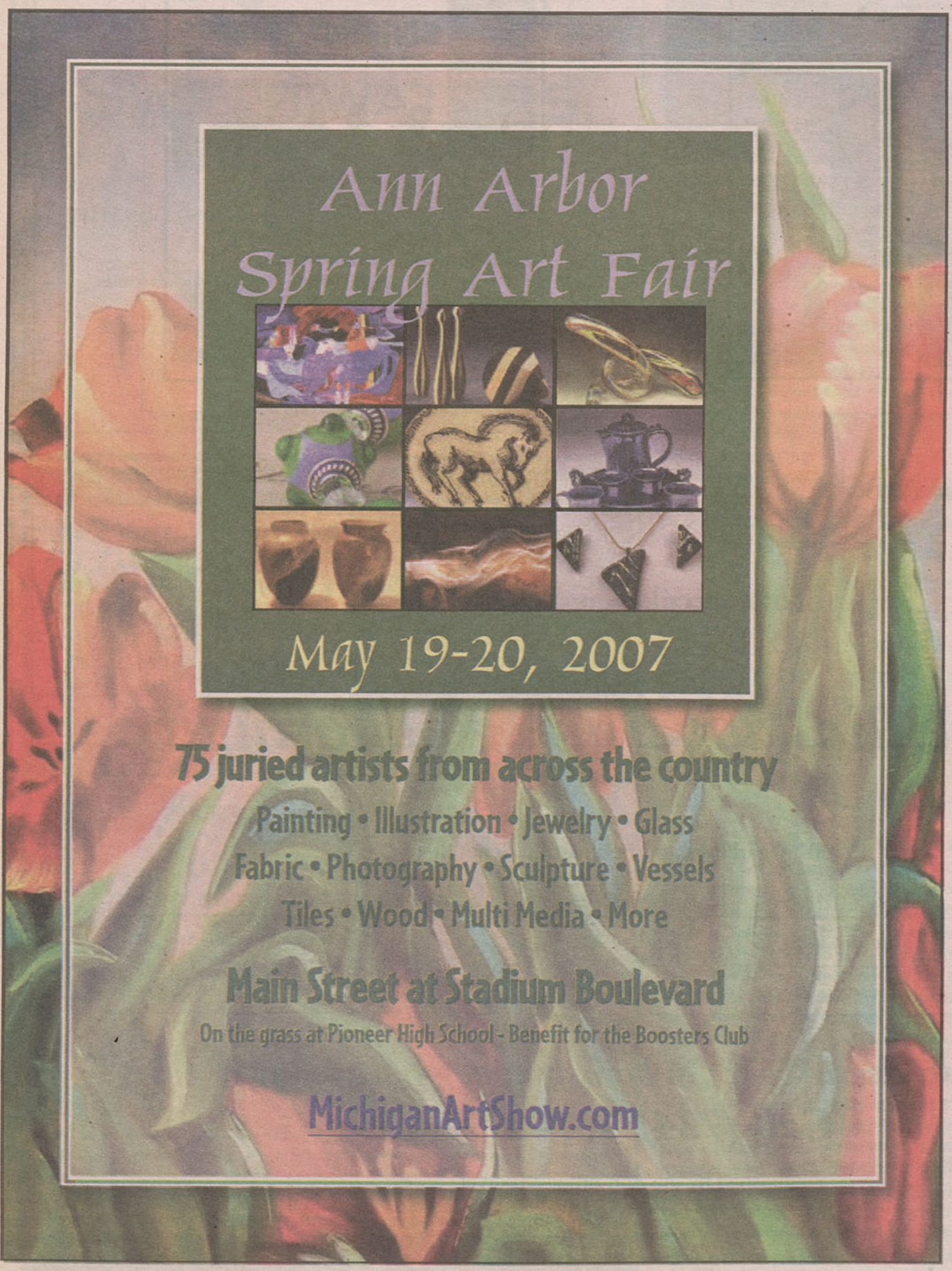
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The Everyday empire expands again

With Lunch at Everyday Cook

Mary Campbell can't serve you wine with your meal at Everyday Cook in Kerrytown, but if you go downstairs to Everyday Wines, she can recommend one that would have gone great with it.

Campbell, who owns both stores, says she considered calling her new restaurant-within-a-store Everyday Lunch—until she remembered it was open only Tuesday through Saturday. She went instead with **Lunch at Everyday Cook.** Nonetheless, confusion persists. Campbell says a lot of people add an "everyday" to whatever she does, including lunch, because they think it's funny. "We're Everyday everything," she laughs.

The Everyday empire has grown quickly. Campbell opened Everyday Wines on Kerrytown's first floor in 2003, and Everyday Cook on the second floor in late 2005. Since cookware and kitchen accessories alone weren't enough to fill the 5,000-square-foot space, Campbell put in a commercial kitchen and started offering cooking classes in February 2006. She hired chef Chewy Lebnick, whose last gig was lunch chef at Monahan's Seafood Market downstairs; he started as a cooking instructor at Everyday Cook, but plans for the restaurant followed within weeks.

Lebnick, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America, is joined in the kitchen by Brendan McCall, twenty-four, formerly sous chef at Eve. Their menu changes daily but always includes a soup, a salad, and two entrees, one vegetarian and one not. There are no regular dishes; they might serve Scottish-style braised lamb one day and a Moroccan garbanzo crepe with lamb the next.

The complexity of the food belies the casual ambience of the space. You write down your order on a Post-it note and hand it in. When your order's ready, your name is called and you pick up your food. Lebnick says he and Campbell were going for the feel of "a New England lobster restaurant where you sit randomly at picnic tables with people you don't know." But instead of picnic tables, you face long, high-tech-looking steel tables with stools that contrast nicely with the building's bare brick walls and worn plank-wood floors. (Credit goes to local design firm WETSU, which won a best-retail-design award for Everyday Wines' clean and casually elegant look.) The restaurant seats thirty-five to forty, including a half dozen stools at the counter where you can watch

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Mary Campbell in the open kitchen at Everyday Cook, where lunches will feature a different local producer each month. First up: Kerrytown neighbor T.R. Durham's Tracklements Smokery.

Lebnick and McCall prepare your lunch.

Lunches are $6 to $12 and include a beverage (nonalcoholic—Campbell has applied for a license to serve wine and beer, but getting one takes time). "Our plan for the long term is to feature a local producer each month," says McCall, starting with neighbor T. R. Durham's Tracklements Smokery. "One of our entree items will always feature his products in some way, whether it's a fish sauce or salmon that's been minced and folded in to a seafood mousse." Future possibilities includes Monahan's Seafood and Sparrow's Market downstairs, and most of the vendors who set up shop at the Farmers' Market outside.

"We want to try and have people think locally" while they're dining, says McCall, and "then go out and buy locally."

Lunch at Everyday Cook, 407 North Fifth Avenue (Kerrytown Market and Shops), 827–2665. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon.

Suwanee Springs splits in two

Wally Meyers takes Jules's spot

Wally Meyers is dividing his Main Street women's wear boutique **Suwanee Springs** into two stores. All of the leather goods have migrated across the hall into the old Jules space, recently christened **Suwanee Springs Leather.** The leather goods store "will be a new concept—more like a gallery space," he says.

Leather itself isn't new to Meyers. He opened his first leather store on State Street in 1968, mainly stocked with his own handmade sandals, bags, and leather clothing. Through the years he gradually expanded into general women's wear.

And the "gallery" comparison isn't some kind of feng shui merchandise-speak. A quiet aficionado of art, particularly—as one might expect from a former leatherworker—those arts that are tactile and earthy, Meyers has long been a friend of Gary Murphy, a co-owner of the tree

Though Meyers uses words like "fixturing," "sparse," and "gallery space" to describe the new place, it's only the aesthetics, not the prices, that have moved upmarket.

service Shady Tree. Murphy is supplying many of the tables and benches that will artistically display the leatherware.

Many people have seen Murphy in their backyards with a chain saw getting rid of their emerald-bored ashes, but few know that he's also a studio furniture maker. His tables usually incorporate gnarly sections of intact trunks in the base, fortified with stainless steel that not only solidifies the structure but makes the piece more like a multimedia sculpture. The ones in the store are priced at $2,800 to $3,800. Will people buy them? "Well, I don't expect it to be the major part of the business, but you can always be surprised," says Meyers.

Though Meyers uses words like "fixturing," "sparse," and "gallery space" to describe the new place, it's only the aesthetics, not the prices, that have moved upmarket. Meyers specializes in high-quality but not wallet-busting leatherware and promises it will be "no more pricey than it has been; it will just be displayed better." Sven handbags are in the $100–$200 range, a Jack Georges briefcase is $350, and a Matt and Nat "vegan" bag made from leather-look PVC is around $150. A Rafel Shearling full-length coat will cost about $2,000, but Meyers reports that a woman who recently bought one from him told him she'd seen the same one at the

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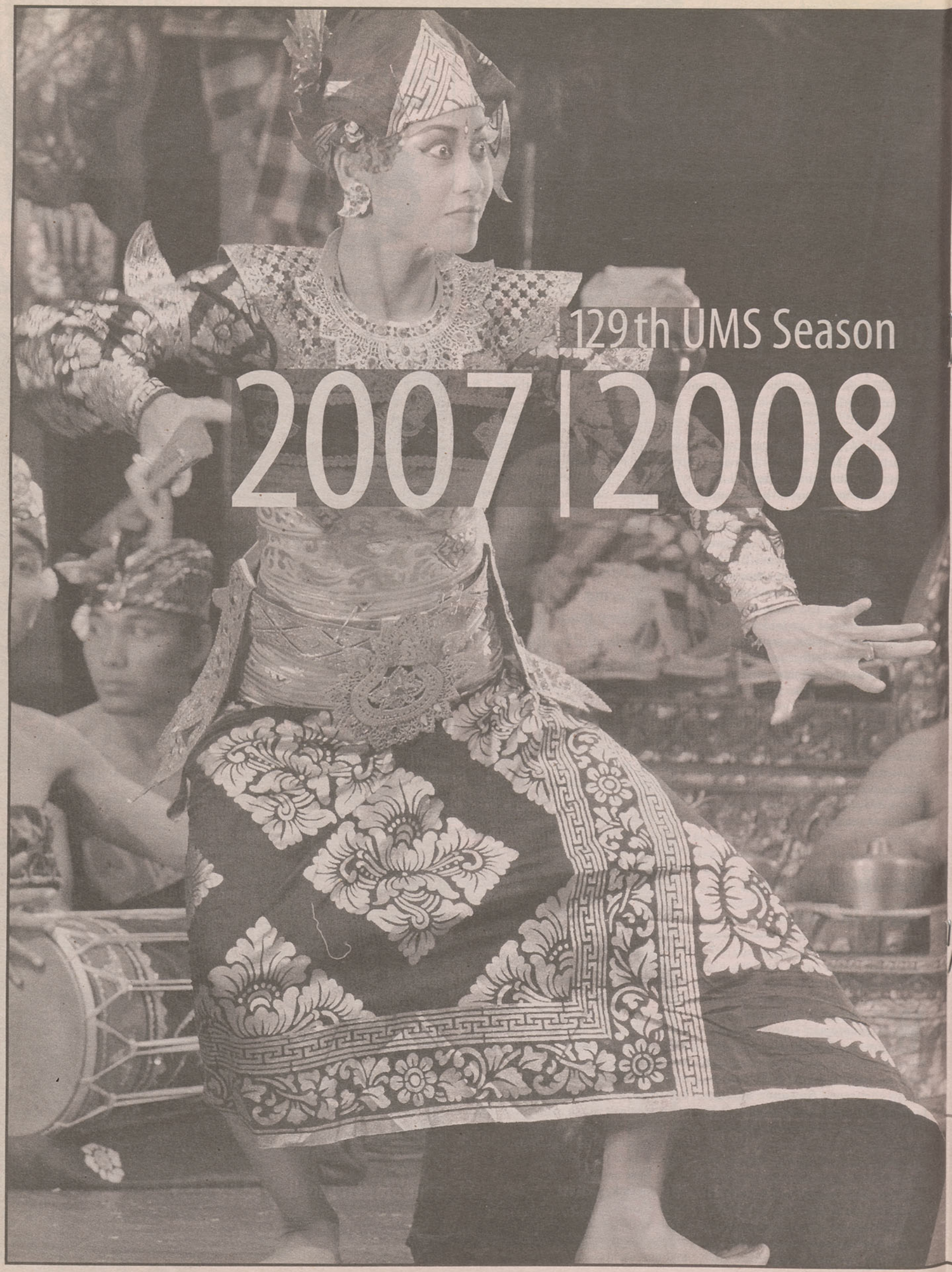
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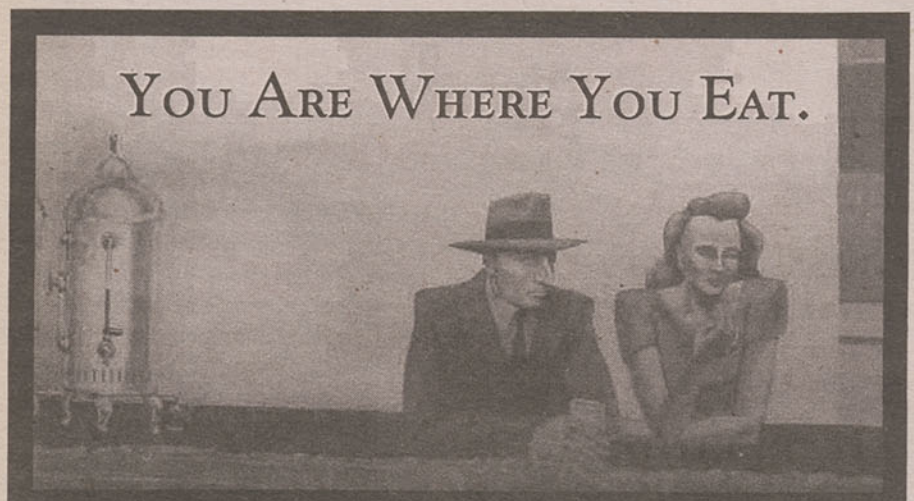

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

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Suwanee Springs Leather, 306 South Main, 761–7992. Mon. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Tues.–Thurs. 11 a.m.– 6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

Briefly Noted

The space next to the Fleetwood Diner has reverted to the Middle Eastern roots it laid down in the 1990s when it was Afundi's Cafe. The new owners, Ganesh Vedhapudi, from India, and Furrukh Khan, from Pakistan, opened **Eastern Flame** in early April after five months remodeling the former **Salvatore's Pizza.** Afundi's olive tree murals and sand-colored ceramic tiles still decorate the room—most of the remodeling took place in the kitchen, which held only pizza ovens.

Khan and Vedhapudi, two college pals who met at Wayne State, are a pair reminiscent of Laurel and Hardy. Vedhapudi is tall, slim, and tentative, while his Pakistani partner is shorter, rounder, and voluble. They come from Detroit's Greektown, where they owned the Mediterranean Cafe, and have years of experience with the South-Asian-and-Middle-Eastern menu that spans shawarmas, kebabs, tikkas, tandooris, samosas, falafel, ghallaba, and even couscous. Some of the outliers on the menu are truly eye opening—things like veal ribs and quail, associated more with high-end rustic bistros than this casual, hanging-out corner of town. (While a good bit of the menu is squarely in cheap-eats territory and the ambience informal, the entrees are more in a middle price range: $14 for a shawarma combination plate, served with soup or salad, rice, and pita bread.)

Both agree that the Greektown Casino, which opened seven years ago, hasn't been kind to the cheap, comfy multiethnic spots that for years coexisted with the Greek restaurants that gave the neighborhood its name. Khan, who studied electrical engineering for a time at the U-M, had always loved Ann Arbor, and they decided to bring their act here.

The menu here is much the same as their old Mediterranean Cafe minus breakfast; Eastern Flame opens at 10. "We can't do breakfast here," Khan says, with a nod of his head toward the Fleetwood next door. He and Vedhapudi are hoping to change their hours shortly, staying open till 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Eastern Flame, 304 South Ashley, 864–5236. Daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m.

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Though it sounds like a promising bit of black humor ("What do they call the Three Mile Island leg of the PGA Tour?"), **Putt N Glow** is—second guess, anyone?—miniature golf under black lights. In fact, you get the black light treatment as soon as you walk in the door and see nothing but the green-glowing torso of owner-manager Mike Hanss behind the counter.

It's as delightfully cheesy as it sounds, with eighteen holes designed by Randy Bowen, a Bay City minigolf designer par excellence who, says Hanss, "wants to make this his showcase." Unlike outside minigolf, but like other black light courses, Putt N Glow has all its holes on the same elevation, with the obstacle for each hole in the form of some kind of timed rotating device. It costs $7 to play a round ($6 for kids under twelve).

For those who aren't quite up to the athletic demands of minigolf but who just like the idea of spending a few hours under that strange cool spectrum where anything painted with certain reflective particles jumps out at you with an amped-up sci-fi luster, there are also a video arcade, black-light Ping Pong, and perhaps in the future Dance Dance Revolution.

It's not an original idea: "It's 'borrowed,' let's say, but we're the first in town. The nearest is Novi," says Sue Souder, another partner in the business. Originally Hanss, Souder, and third partner Cindy Hart saw a need on the west side of Ann Arbor for traditional outdoor minigolf. The three are neighbors whose kids are roughly contemporaries, and when they were younger, they spent many weekends together scouting out kid entertainment. Their Internet research, says Souder, led them in this unexpected direction—which is not only a local first but year-round entertainment as well.

For those who aren't quite up to the athletic demands of minigolf but who just like the idea of spending a few hours under that strange cool spectrum where anything painted with certain reflective particles jumps out at you with an amped-up sci-fi luster, Putt N Glow also has a video arcade, black-light Ping Pong, and perhaps in the future Dance Dance Revolution. Of course, no black-light experience is complete without fizzy drinks, packets of crunchy snacks, and glo toys. Those are for sale too.

Putt N Glow, 3900 Jackson, suite 3, 222–1720. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. 11 a.m.–11 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

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He was born Happy. Literally.

Happy Asker opened his eighteenth **Happy's Pizza** at the end of April in the old Verizon Wireless space at Main and Madison.

Happy's sells pizza the way your average Coney Island sells hot dogs—both are featured, but they're just a small part of an extensive menu with an overwhelming va-

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

riety of items. In addition to pizza (including specialty pizzas like steak, seafood, and barbecue chicken), Happy's will deliver smoked rib dinners, seafood dinners, whole rotisserie chickens, subs, hamburgers, salads, chicken wings, and even full deep-fried catfish dinners with fries, coleslaw, and bread.

It also delivers beer and wine, the only Happy's location that does. But the beer and wine license is for delivery and carry-out only. So you can eat at Happy's—there are a few tables and counter seats—but you can't drink there.

Happy Asker opened his first Happy's Pizza in his parents' name—he was only seventeen and couldn't legally own it himself.

Asker opened the first Happy's Pizza in Detroit in 1994. He was working in a video store at the time, and customers kept asking him whether there was a good place to eat in the area. Taking the hint, he quit the video store and went into the restaurant business. That first place was in his parents' name—Asker was only seventeen and couldn't legally own it himself.

He's thirty now, with eight more Happy's locations in the works and plans to expand into Ohio and Illinois.

And the "born Happy" thing? Yes, he's heard that one before.

Happy's Pizza, 600 South Main, 302–0000. Mon.–Wed. 10 a.m.–midnight, Thurs.–Sat. 10 a.m.–2 a.m., Sun. noon–midnight.

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Tippins, the wine store, deli, and specialty food store at Ann Arbor–Saline and Pleasant Lake roads, has new owners. Jason Kishmish and Reggie Kajy are Chaldeans who "knew each other since we were kids, growing up together in West Bloomfield," Kishmish says. They own a couple of other stores, in Grand Blanc and in Clinton Township, but this is the one that floats Kishmish's boat. "This area is going to blossom—nothing but growth for this area," he says. "I am thinking of moving out here myself. When we took it over it was already one of the best wine shops in Michigan. There was nothing I needed to do to the place." He's been working closely with former owners Mike and Judy Johns and John Pearson, to make sure the transition is seamless. "Not too much is going to change. The deli is all choice meat—it's wonderful," Kishmish says, and pauses. "Well, maybe we'll add more groceries, so that you can get everything you need here. I want people not to have to go to Meijer at all if they don't want to. But there's nothing else it needs." He pauses again. "Well," he amends, "maybe I'll add a Beaner's coffee franchise. I've been looking into that. But the store is perfect as it is." He pauses yet again. "Well," he says, "I'm thinking of adding a catering facility."

Tippins, 4845 Ann Arbor–Saline Road, 665–3690. Mon.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri. 7 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun 11 a.m.–10 p.m.

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Its windows are papered with bright posters aimed at two seemingly different clienteles: check cashing for 39¢ and Bass Ale for $12.99 a twelve-pack. **Falsetta's,** a venerable east-side bulwark of the party store industry, also changed hands recently. For sixteen years it was owned by brothers Mo(hammed) and Mo(hanned) Kasham, who still own Pittsfield Plaza, in which it's housed. (The two Mos have decided to move full time into the restaurant business and will be opening **Greego's Coney and Grill** in the former Makkara Sushi location, next door to Falsetta's, sometime this month or next.) The new owners of Falsetta's are Nagham "Nunu" Yousif, who was born in Iraq and grew up in the Detroit area, and her brother-in-law, Leith Korkis, who also owns Grand River Express in Detroit. Ice cream has been relegated to the back of the store, says Yousif, so that the entire front and west-side wall are now chilling fancy beers and wine: Baltika beer from Russia, Young's double chocolate stout, and Lambics from Belgium. Behind the cash register are at least twenty-five new brands of scotch, many of them single malts. For the itinerant, there is what Yousif says is probably the first "bill payment center" in the area. "It's going to be a big thing," she says. "All the stores will have them, but I think we're the first." It looks like an ATM, but for a $2 surcharge it will pay bills, and it will also sell you a phone card. It will do so in a number of languages and even talk out loud to you.

Falsetta's, 2200 Pittsfield Boulevard, 971–1220. Mon.–Thurs. 8 a.m.–11 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 8 a.m.–1 a.m., Sun. noon–11 p.m.

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Can you think of any store at Arborland that isn't part of a chain?

Neither could Lee Gilles—which is why he moved his **Pierre Paul Art Gallery** from Arborland to a new space right across Washtenaw in March.

"Everyone thought we were a national chain," Gilles says. "That was a real problem for us, and that's one of the reasons we're out of Arborland." Gilles was referring to some Ann Arborites' aversion to shopping at any business that isn't independent and locally owned—as his gallery is: "We were the only noncorporate business there."

There were other reasons for the move, like parking. "We had terrible access," Gilles says. "It was just a nightmare location." And Gilles concedes that some people might think Arborland's high rent had something to do with it, "until perhaps they set foot in the new location."

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

Along with the new address, the Pierre Paul Art Gallery has a new product line. In addition to original art and picture frames (the gallery started out as a framing shop), Gilles will sell high-end *giclée* prints of the original artwork hanging on his walls.

Pronounced "zhee CLAY," that term echoes elegant painting terms like *craquelure*, *chiaroscuro*, and *gouache*. Actually, it was coined in the early 1990s to describe a kind of high-quality digital print made with an ink-jet printer. Today *giclée* in fine art usually refers to limited edition reproductions of original paintings and photographs. It's a more affordable alternative if you can't justify the cost of the original piece, and according to Gilles, no other gallery in the area offers the service.

Pierre Paul Art Gallery, 3370 Washtenaw, 975–1050. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m.

Closings

Pita Pit on State Street—like its older brother on South U, which closed last year—was unable to survive the cutthroat competition for the student sandwich dollar. Pita Pit is a nationally franchised chain, with half a dozen other Pits in Michigan scattered around the suburban Detroit area and college towns, but it seemed unable to get a foothold here. The chain emphasizes healthy, low-fat fast food, with, its corporate website also notes, an ambience dedicated to "bold colors, lighting, and animated characters." "I don't know if it's just not the right town for it or what," Zack Hawker, owner of Hawker's Deli two doors down (whose place is notably devoid of animated characters and bold colors), says diplomatically but with a certain amount of relief. "The overhead was pretty high. They just weren't making it. They had four or five owners, and one seemed to be doing all the work." Pita Pit closed shortly after Christmas.

The **Garden Cafe** in Huron Towers closed last October—but not because business was bad, according to Huron Towers property manager Dolores DeTavernier.

It was the second incarnation of a Garden Cafe in the same space. Once a jazz club called the Apartment Lounge, it became the Garden Cafe & Market in 1992 and then Leo's Deli in late 2001, before owners Jose Rico and Shelly Horner bought it and changed the name back to the Garden Cafe, minus the Market part, in late 2005.

DeTavernier says that though the restaurant was doing well, "their lease expired and they decided not to renew it." The timing was right. DeTavernier says longtime partners Rico and Horner were ready to go their separate ways—she to Jamaica, he to Mexico, and both far enough away to be unavailable for comment.

Hancock Fabrics announced in March that its Maple Village location will close at the end of June. At the beginning of the year, Hancock was the nation's number-two fabric and crafts store chain, with 405 stores to Jo-Ann Stores' 940-plus. The Maple Village store, in business for nearly forty years, is one of 134 closings announced since February. By the time the purge is over, Hancock will still be number two—but with only 234 stores. And there may be more closings to come: the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last month. People paying attention to the local sewing scene might have seen the end coming—Hancock closed its Carpenter Road location last spring because it was "underperforming."

A **Wireless Giant** franchisee vacated his space in the Plymouth Green Shopping Center at the end of January, but he left the sign.

The Madison Heights–based company specializes in wireless products and services and has over sixty stores across the country. The Ann Arbor store opened in early 2005. The franchisee couldn't be reached for comment, but Nadine Stafford, marketing director for Wireless Giant, said the business "wasn't a good fit for his personal life at this time." Stafford wasn't sure whether her employer or the former storekeeper owned the Wireless Giant sign above the empty storefront.

Jeffery Hutton, property manager at Plymouth Green, wouldn't mind knowing the answer to that one. Otherwise, says Hutton, "I'll probably have to remove it myself."

Purchase Radio Supply, whose name is spelled out in tattered red letters across a bleak-looking building on Hoover, was once such a thriving electronics store that it split its camera business off into Purchase Camera on South U (Purchase Camera closed in 1990). It was started in 1930 by ham radio operator Roy Purchase; his daughter, OlaJeanne McCollough, inherited it in 1986, and her husband, Dan, seventy-one, is its last manager. "Van's Electronics in Ida, near Dundee, has bought all the inventory," says Dan. "The building has been sold to a photographer. All we've got now are some cleaning and office supplies we're trying to find a home for."

In its heyday, the business made most of its money as an electronics distributor and didn't do retail business. "Campus TV would call up and say, 'We need ten antennas and rotors,' " Dan recalls. What's a rotor? "Why, it's the thing antennas turn on." Do people still have antennas? "Oh, come on, now," he counters. "A lot of people have antennas. A lot of people don't like to pay cable bills. You can still get a lot of channels in Ann Arbor with a good antenna. You didn't know that?" In later years, Purchase became more of a specialty business dealing in antique vacuum tubes and supplying parts to ham radio operators, which Dan still enthusiastically is (general class call sign WB8UXO). Even that specialty income stream dwindled to a trickle once people began to learn their way around eBay and other Internet specialty dealers. "Ham radio will live on, though," insists McCollough. He muses, "Don't know what 'ham' means. I think 'hams' are people who like to talk a lot, like I'm doing now."

Follow-Up

Ten years ago this month, the Marketplace Changes column featured eight new businesses. Since then, half of them have closed: **Pasta to Go** and **Java House,** opposite each other at South University and Forest; **Dean's Golf Outlet** on South Industrial, which was replaced by a second golf shop that has since itself gone out of business; and the U-M Hospital **Wendy's,** whose lease the university, favoring healthier food options, declined to renew. The survivors are **Foods of India,** now across the street from its original location on Broadway; **T.G.I. Friday's** on Waters Road; **S3 Safe Sex Store** on South University; and **Seoul Garden** on Boardwalk, which no longer goes by **"Také and Seoul Garden"** but still serves both Korean and Japanese food.

May 1997 survival rate: 50 percent

Five years ago this month, this column once again reported eight retail and restaurant openings. Since then, only two of those businesses have closed. **Shalamar Emporium,** a Pakistani/Indian gift shop on William, was relatively short lived. **Ashley's Underground,** a temporary experiment with wine bar tastings in the basement of Ashley's Pub, died for lack of interest, though the basement space remains open as overflow for the upstairs seating. Still open: Maynard Street coffeehouse **Cafe Ambrosia, Quizno's** downtown location on Main Street, and **Belle Tire, Lowe's,** and **Panera Bread,** all on Jackson Road. **Audrey Gordon Florist** started out on Zeeb; since then, it's moved to Jackson Road, too.

May 2002 survival rate: 75 percent

One year ago this month, we told you about seven new restaurants. Five of them survive, and two of them have yet to open their doors: **Bar Louie,** which in mid-March was advertising for a bar manager on craigslist, and **Boston Pizza,** which has yet to break ground on Carpenter Road. The first-anniversary celebrants are **Pilar's Cafe** on South State, **Aubree's Pizza Express** on Washtenaw in Glencoe Crossing, **Anthony's Gourmet Pizza** on Maple at Miller, **Sushi Town** on Packard, and **Mélange,** downtown on Main Street.

May 2006 survival rate: 100 percent

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

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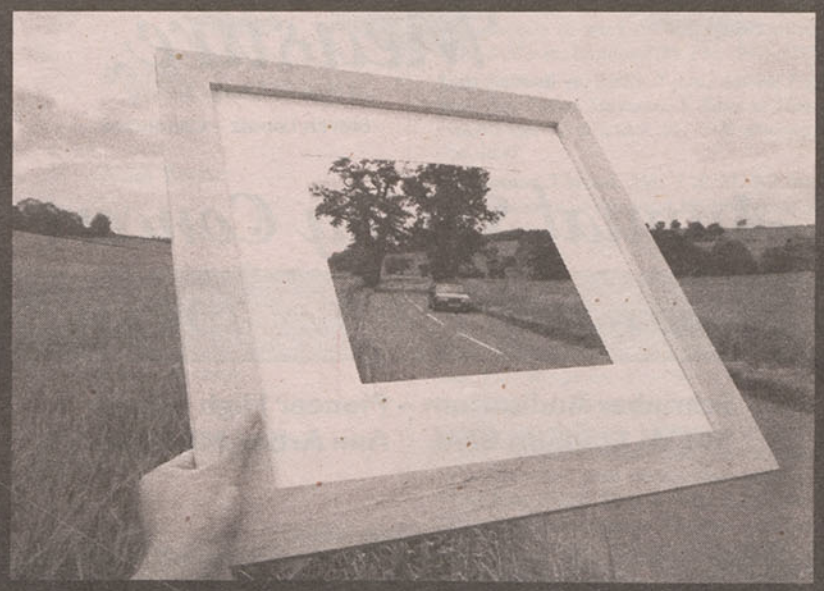

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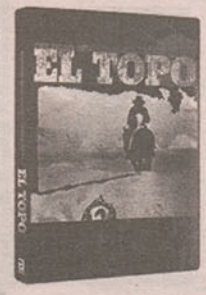

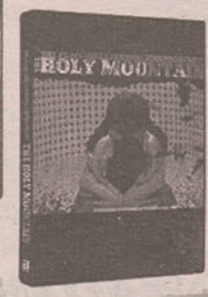

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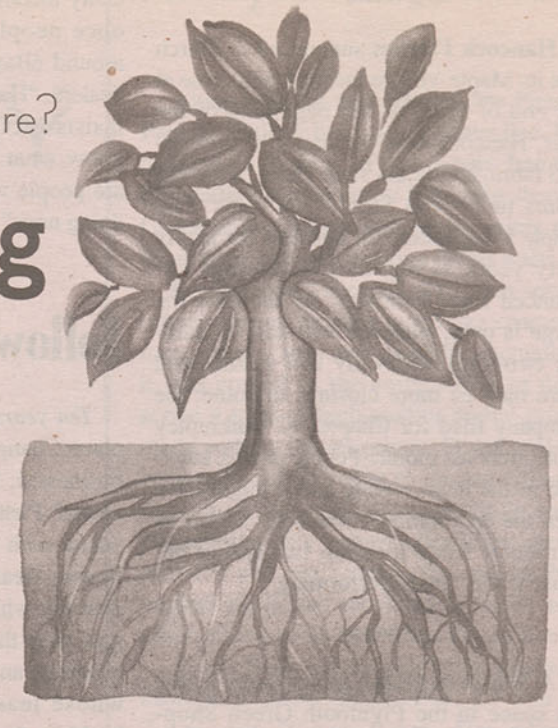

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2007

May Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375 or 769-4950.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

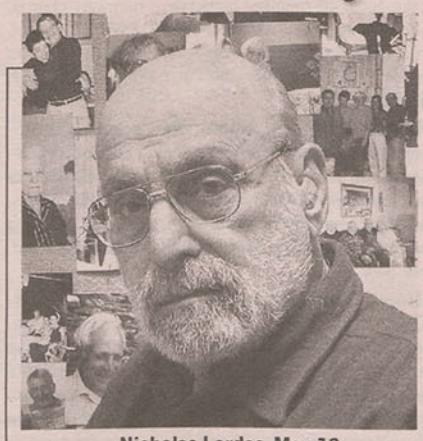
arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

★ *Denotes no admission charge.*

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com



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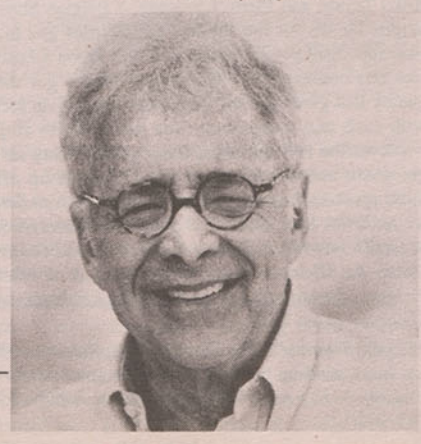

Kristin Hersh, May 24

1 TUESDAY

★**Annual May Day Dancing: Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** All invited to celebrate this traditional holiday with outdoor singing and boisterous, jingly morris dancing. "We like to rise when the sun she rises," organizers say. *6–7 a.m., Nichols Arboretum (meet at cement benches near Geddes Rd. entrance gate). Free. 747–8138.*

★**Kickoff: Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** A chance to meet representatives of local organizations that support biking, walking, and public transportation downtown. T-shirts to first 25 who show up. Free coffee & bagels as long as supplies last. *7–9:30 a.m., Federal Bldg. plaza, 200 E. Liberty. Free. 214–0100.*

★**"Whitmore Lake Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 20–39 miles, to a nearby town for brunch. *9 a.m. (May 1 & 8) & 8:30 a.m. (May 15, 22, & 29), meet at the Park & Ride lot on 9 Mile Rd. at US-23, exit 54, Whitmore Lake. Free. 449–2026.*

★**"No Bills Day": Washtenaw County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section.** Free 20-minute consultations with local attorneys on just about any kind of legal matter, from family law and landlord-tenant relations to civil rights and criminal law. Also, free literature on small claims court procedures, tenants' rights, home safety, domestic violence, sale and purchase of real estate, and more. In celebration of Law Day. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main, & Women's Center of America, 2425 W. Stadium. Free. Appointments are strongly recommended, but walk-ins are fitted in as time permits. 996–3229.*

Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tuesday & Wednesday (different locations).* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower), & 12:45–3:30 p.m. (Wed.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. 25¢ contribution for prizes. 769–5911.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tuesday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular word game. *10 a.m.–noon, Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

"Gallup Gatherings": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 55 & older invited for socializing, nature walks, and other activities. Coffee & baked goods provided. *10–11:30 a.m., Gallup Park canoe livery (west side of Huron Pkwy.). $5. 662–9319.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tuesday.* The program includes **mahjongg** (noon–2:30 p.m.) and a **drop-in hobby time** (1–3 p.m.), for which you're invited to bring in your own project to work on and share. Coffee & noshes. *Noon–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"May Day Picnic": People's Progressive Network.** All invited to join a potluck (bring a dish to share; table service provided) and hear talks by PPN speakers memorializing longtime PPN member Judy Duboff. Recorded 30s workers' songs. Rain or shine. In commemoration of International Workers Day. *1 p.m., Island Park Pavilion (off Island Dr. off Maiden Lane). Free. 662–6036.*

★**"Big Sky Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Moderate-paced ride, 20–35 miles, along flat, relatively quiet picturesque roads south of Ann Arbor. *6 p.m., meet at York Baptist Church, 1220 Stony Creek Rd. at Platt. Free. 971–5763.*

★**"Huron River Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tuesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 18–40 miles, to Dexter and back. *6 p.m., meet at Rudolf Steiner School, 1655 Newport Rd. Free. 424–9765.*

"How to Live to Be a Healthy 100": Women Business Owners of Southeastern Michigan. Talk by Grosse Pointe physician Pamela Smith, who is board certified in anti-aging medicine. Light refreshments. *6 p.m., Lake Forest Golf Club, 3110 W. Ellsworth at Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (members, free). 332–9300.*

★**Ann Arbor Front Runners.** *Every Tuesday & Thursday.* Gay, lesbian, and straight runners invited to choose a distance of 3–5 miles to run with Front Runners members. *6:30 p.m., meet at Furstenberg Park, off Fuller Rd. across from Huron High School. Free. 741–1763.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tuesday.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

U-M Softball vs. EMU. *7 p.m., Alumni Field (behind Ray Fisher Stadium), S. State at Hoover. $4 (youths age 12 & under, $2; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

★**Common Thread.** *May 1 & 15.* All invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7–9 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group: Arborland Borders.** *Every Tuesday.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**Mothers and More.** *May 1 & 17.* Today: local financial planners Savvas and Annetta Giannakopoulos discuss **"Money Management."** Also this month: U-M public policy grad student Fran Loosen on **"So What Can I Do?: How to Take Action on Public Policy Issues Related to Mothers and Families"** (May 17). *7–9 p.m., location TBA (May 1) & Gladwin Meeting Place (May 17), 4105 W. Liberty. Free. 786–3875.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tuesday.* Historical and traditional English dancing. Today: Ray Bantle and friends call to music by David West, Donna Baird, and Tammy Corwin-Renner. Also this month: callers Greg Meisner and Shirley Harden with music by Nawal Motawi, Betsy Foote, and Brad Battey (May 8), callers Arlene Kindel and Bronwen Gates with music by Childgrove (May 15), caller Don Theyken with music by West, Baird, and Foote (May 22), and callers Bantle and Kindel with music by Childgrove (May 29). All dances taught. No partner needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $6 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

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1 TUESDAY *continued*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tuesday.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★**Huron Orchestra: Huron High School.** Christopher Mark directs the Philharmonia and Concert Orchestras in music from *Pirates from the Caribbean* and *Star Trek*, "Stairway to Heaven," Celtic works, and Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony. 7 p.m., Meyers Auditorium, Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2095.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tuesday.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance for instructions. For information, call Greg Humbel at 769–1463.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

★**Track Workout: Ann Arbor Track Club.** *Every Tuesday.* Runners (and walkers) of all ages and abilities welcome. Now in their 27th year, the Track Club's workouts are a popular means for runners to train and be timed at various distances. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M outdoor track, S. State at Hoover. Free. 663–9740.*

★**Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club.** *Every Tuesday & Saturday.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *7:30–9:30 p.m. (Tues.) & 2–4 p.m. (Sat.), U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***El Conquistador,*** Federico Andahazi's novel about an Aztec mariner's pre-Columbian discovery of Europe and its barbarian cultures. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *May 1 & 15.* Tonight: local photographer Rosemary Lyons discusses **"Portraits: How to Create Artistic Effects."** Also this month: local portraiture, commercial, and fine art photographer Sam Ritter's discussion of **"Sharpening Photos to the Nth Degree"** (May 15) includes an overview of Adobe's new Photoshop Lightroom and Photoshop/Bridge CS3 beta. *7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, room 111, 1655 Newport Rd. Free ($15 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

Grand Slam Finals: Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. The top finishers in last month's semifinals—**Karynna McGlynn, Mike Moriarty, Kate Weilnau, Logic, Matt Ernst,** and **Adam Rzepka**—compete tonight for the 2006 Ann Arbor Grand Slam championship. The top 4 Grand Slam finishers receive cash prizes and will be the Ann Arbor team at the 2007 National Poetry Slam, held this year in August in Austin, Texas. Also, open-mike readings. *7:30–10 p.m., Club Heidelberg (above the Heidelberg restaurant), 215 N. Main. $5 (students with ID & members, $3). For information, call Larry Francis at 426–3451.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tuesday.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 665–2931.*

Mississippi Heat: The Ark. *See review, p. 85.* Vintage 50s-style Chicago blues by this internationally acclaimed band fronted by Inetta Visor, a powerhouse vocalist in the tradition of Etta James and Koko Taylor, and Pierre Lacocque, a Belgian blues harpist known for the subtlety of his solos and his hawklike tonal power. "Once in a blue moon a band like this comes along. Mississippi Heat's got the quality that gives you the gutbucket, gizzard-rip feel with each and every song. You just want to stop whatever the hell important thing you're doing and get down and boogie when these blues jump off those speakers," says *American Harmonica Newsletter* reviewer Rick Shidell. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $3. 665–9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tuesday.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

FILMS

"The Host" (Bong Joon-Ho, 2006). *May 1–3.* Horror movie about a mutant sea creature, inadvertently spawned by the carelessness of the American army, that terrorizes the locals. Korean, subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

2 WEDNESDAY

"Twelfth Night": Wild Swan Theater. *May 2–6.* This award-winning local children's theater company presents Shakespeare's comedy of misplaced affections and mistaken identities. Viola, a noblewoman shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria, disguises herself as a man and finds work as a servant to Duke Orsino, with whom she promptly falls in love. But when the duke sends his new servant to court a young widow on his behalf, the widow becomes enamored of Viola. After several additional gender-bending plot twists, everyone eventually snaps back into place, but with a variety of delightful and surprising differences. Cast: Claire Shinkman, Stacey Weddle, Jeremy Salvatori, David Burfoot, Justin Vidovic, Michelle Lanzi, John Sloan III, and Sandy Ryder. *10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris J. Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $10 (children, $8) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Wednesday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: traditional Mother Goose **nursery rhymes.** Also this month: Dayle Ann Dodds's ***Teacher's Pets*** and Jules Feiffer's ***Bark, George*** (May 9), Jeanne Willis's ***Who's in the Bathroom*** and John Hall's ***How to Get a Gorilla Out of Your Bathtub*** (May 16), Dr. Seuss's ***Yertle the Turtle*** and Craig Hatkoff's ***Owen & Mzee*** (May 23), and Tae-Eun Yoo's ***The Little Red Fish*** and Lucy Cousins's ***Hooray for Fish!*** (May 30). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Every Wednesday.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11:30 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Toastmasters General.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *Noon–1 p.m., F206 Veterans Hospital, 2215 Fuller Rd. Free to visitors. 769–7100, ext. 5678.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Wednesday.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"A Public Voice Calling: Who Is Listening?": U-M Ford Presidential Library.** Screening of a National Press Club discussion about energy choices for the future that was broadcast via satellite earlier today. Followed by an informal group discussion. *4–6:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205–0540.*

★**Scrabble: The Firefly Club.** *Every Wednesday.* All invited to join Firefly owner Susan Chastain and other local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Free. 665–9090.*

★**Runner's Clinic: Michigan Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center.** *Every Wednesday.* Runners of all ability levels invited to chat with and quiz orthopedic surgeon John Anderson, physical therapist Pete Kitto, podiatrist Brad Seel, Tortoise & Hare reps Matt and Monica Holappa, and a rep from Great Lakes Orthotics. Bring running shoes, shorts, and questions about any aspect of running. *5 p.m., MSMOC, Arbor Park Office Center, 4972B W. Clark Rd. (southwest side of the Clark & Golfside intersection), Ypsilanti. Free. 434–3020.*

★**"West Side Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 22–25 miles, and a slow-paced ride, 12–17 miles, to the Dexter Dairy Queen and back. Now in its 29th year, this ride is a favorite with newcomers and casual riders. *6 p.m. sharp, meet at Sweepster parking lot, 2800 N. Zeeb Rd. Free. 426–5116 (longer ride), 665–4552 & 761–2659 (shorter ride).*

★**"Saline Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Wednesday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 30 miles or more, south to Milan and then west to the area around Britton-Macon. *6 p.m., meet at munici-*

Mississippi Heat

Harmonica heaven

More than most genres, the blues is replete with remarkable life stories, and that of Mississippi Heat frontman Pierre Lacocque is especially fascinating. The son of a Belgian Protestant minister and often penniless Old Testament scholar, he was born in Israel and attended an Orthodox Jewish school in Brussels, the Athénée Maïmonide. His parents believed, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, that he should learn about Judaism and the suffering of the Jewish people. Lacocque and his siblings remain the school's only non-Jewish graduates to this day. Lacocque learned to play folk tunes on a harmonica but had no idea that the blues existed.

In 1969 the family came to Chicago, and Lacocque heard Big Walter Horton perform at the University of Chicago. "From one moment to the next I was a new man," he told WBEZ radio host Niles Frantz. Practicing the harmonica "six, seven, eight hours a day," he also began to write original blues numbers. He went to McGill University in Montreal, played in bands there, and hit bottom after a promoter absconded with a $1,000 prize he had won. Returning to Chicago, he studied psychology and philosophy, married, and got a Ph.D.: "For fourteen years, my excitement was to read, study, write, and publish." After another crisis point, "I finally found my calling. Ever since I got back as a full-time musician, everything has fallen into place for me."

Mississippi Heat was formed in 1996, and various members have rotated through the band; Lacocque is the motivator and constant. Currently the band is a sextet, with hard-core shouter (think Etta James) Inetta Visor and four other Chicago blues veterans joining Lacocque and bringing a familiar ease to his original compositions. Mississippi Heat's sound fits squarely into the classic Chicago blues tradition, and the band's covers are powerful: an album from a couple years ago, *One Eye Open: Live at Rosa's Lounge*, features scorching versions of Aretha Franklin's "Rock Steady" from Visor and of Jessie Mae Robinson's "Cold, Cold Feeling" from guitarist and vocalist Lurrie Bell.

The main attraction, though, is Lacocque's harmonica. The predominant impression is one of great delicacy, not a word used all that often in connection with electric blues. Even for a harpist-headed band, Mississippi Heat features a lot of utterances from the reed family's smallest member. Lacocque can do a howling, blasting solo with the best of them, replicating the classic Muddy Waters band sound in which the harmonica went toe to toe with the electric guitar. But what's more surprising is the variety of other sounds emerging from his instrument. He excels in quiet, dancing passages at the top of the harmonica's register. And he's playing, more often than not, during vocal solos or those of other instruments, single-handedly laying down an added musical stratum or providing wordless commentary, sometimes quite humorous, on the lyrics of a song. He has an effect in which he cycles rapidly through the notes of a chord, creating a sound resembling the humming of a motor, and he can imitate a guitar at low volumes as well as high ones.

Mississippi Heat comes to the Ark on Tuesday, May 1.

—James M. Manheim

pal parking lot on Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. south of Michigan Ave., Saline. Free. 645–5840.

Wine Tasting: Paesano's Restaurant. *Every Wednesday.* A chance to sample 5 different Italian wines each week, in an informal and friendly setting, with a selection of appetizers. *6–7 p.m., Paesano's, 3411 Washtenaw. Space limited; reservations recommended. $20. 971–0484.*

★**Ann Arbor Toastmasters Club.** *Every Wednesday.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Monday & Thursday (see listings). *6:15–7:45 p.m., 101 Science Hall, Concordia University, 4090 Geddes. Free to visitors. Dues: $30 semiannually. 994–1479.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wednesday.* Each 2-person team plays 2 or 3 hands against a dozen or so other pairs during the evening. Players at all levels welcome. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills Clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★**Huron Valley Model Builders.** All invited to join a show-and-tell discussion. Bring your models built from scratch or from kits, including cars, tanks, boats, airplanes, spacecraft, figures, and more. *7 p.m., Lakeview Mobile Home Park clubhouse, 9910 Geraldine, Ypsilanti Twp. (take I-94 to Huron St. exit and head south, turn left on Textile, turn right on Bunton). Free. 481–1044.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Wednesday & Thursday.* Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. This week's story: Miriam Ross's ***Don't Forget I Love You.*** Also this month: Karma Wilson's ***Mama Always Comes Home*** (May 9 & 10), P. D. Eastman's ***Are You My Mother?*** (May 16 & 17), and Jane O'Connor's ***Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy*** (May 23 & 24). *7 p.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m. (Thurs.), Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Fertility Awareness": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local naturopathic physician Diana Christoff Quinn. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. 114 S. Main St. Free. Preregistration requested. 994–4589.*

★**Jonathan Cohn: Arborland Borders.** This *New Republic* senior editor and Ann Arborite discusses ***Sick: The Untold Story of America's Health Crisis,*** his sobering examination, complete with riveting case studies, of the shortfalls of the national health care system. "Cohn's book will infuriate you enough to make you want to scream at every member of Congress, 'Read this!' " says David Shipler, author of *The Working Poor.* Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

"Cinco de Mayo Annual Tequila Tasting": Eve Restaurant. A chance to sample a spectrum of tequilas, accompanied by fiery nibbles. "Always a convivial night, to say the least," organizers say. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $40. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

★**Creative Types Art Show: Neutral Zone Book Club.** A variety show and art exhibit showcasing youth talent that combines sculpture, painting, jewelry, photography, video, and performances. *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Fine Arts Festival": Community High Theater Ensemble.** Show, sale, and silent auction of fine arts in various media, along with jewelry, ceramics, home decor, and clothing, all made by CHS students. Also, performances by the Community High School Jazz Band, Dance Body, and Thespian Troupe. *7–9 p.m., Community High School Craft Theater, 401 N. Division. (Parking available in the lot behind the school, N. Fifth Ave. at Detroit St.) Free admission. 994–2021.*

★**Ann Arbor Smocking Group.** Informal "sit 'n' stitch" gathering for those interested in the English art of embroidery known as smocking and in heirloom sewing. All invited. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–7867.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central Depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★**Romance Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Stealing Home***, Sheryl Woods's novel about a recently divorced woman who discovers that her son's baseball coach has feelings for her—and that the whole town disapproves. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Bike Maintenance": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** *May 2 & 16.* Great Lakes Cycling staff lead a hands-on introduction to keeping your bike in good repair. Bring your bike; tools provided. *8–9 p.m., Great Lakes Cycling and Fitness, 2107 W. Stadium. Free. 214–0100.*

Over the Rhine: The Ark. *May 2 & 3.* Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wednesday–Sunday through June 2.* Guy Sanville directs former EMU football assistant coach (and U-M football player) Brian Letscher's drama about a driven coach trying to sign a brilliant recruit who could save his career while neglecting his wife, who yearns for a baby. The cast includes Grant R. Krause, Michelle Mountain, and Jim Porterfield. *8 p.m., Garage Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $25 (Wed. & Thurs.), $30 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $35 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wednesday except May 16.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

The Slackers: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* Ska and rocksteady by this popular New York City band that fleshes out its sound with everything from the traditional horns to pedal steel guitar and violin. "The Slackers are perhaps the best and the brightest of American ska to date; they reinvent their sound with each album, keeping the music fresh, alive, and relevant," says *All Music Guide* reviewer Margaret Crandall. Opening act is the **Phenomenauts,** a punk rockabilly quartet from Oakland, California. *8:30 p.m.–1 a.m., (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $12 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

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2 WEDNESDAY *continued*

FILMS

"The Host" (Bong Joon-Ho, 2006). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

3 THURSDAY

★**"Better World Breakfast": Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** A speaker TBA discusses a problem caused by globalization. Followed by a session of writing letters to elected officials regarding that issue. Breakfast available. *7:30–9:30 a.m., Broken Egg, 221 N. Main St. Free (pay for your own breakfast). 663–1870.*

★**"Spring Migration Walk in Nichols Arboretum": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** *Every Thursday through May 24.* All invited to join club members for a walk through the Arb to look for resident birds and early migrants, which begin arriving in earnest toward the end of April. *9 a.m. departure (early afternoon return), meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of Riverview off Geddes. Free. 994–3569.*

"Bird Hills History Walk": Citywalks. *May 3, 6, 12, 15, 19, 20, & 24.* Brenda Bentley, author of the forthcoming history-focused walking guide to Ann Arbor *Riverwalks*, leads a 5-mile hike with a 200-foot elevation rise to explore Bird Hills, the Barton Nature Area, the Kuebler-Langford Nature Area, and Camp Hilltop. *9–11 a.m. (May 3, 6, 15, 19, & 24) & 4–6 p.m. (May 12 & 20), meet the Bird Hills parking lot on Newport Rd. (north of M-14). $20 includes detailed trail map. Preregistration requested. 945–9804.*

★**"Jackson County Brunch Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Moderate-paced ride, 25–30 miles, along the less traveled roads of scenic Jackson County. *9 a.m., meet at Cavanaugh Lake Park, Cavanaugh Lake Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, 3.2 miles west of Chelsea. Free. 994–5908.*

★**"Spring Unfolding Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced ride, 10–15 miles, around Ann Arbor neighborhoods to explore the delights of local gardens, parks, and cafes. *10 a.m., meet at Gallup Park Canoe Livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 971–5763.*

★**"World Wide Web Tools": Ann Arbor District Library.** Hands-on introduction to web basics, including how to surf and search the web. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Thursday except May 24.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. At 11 a.m., a **Current Events** discussion group. At 1 p.m., a cultural or educational program. This week: **"Every Bite a Pleasure: Nutrition Choices for Everyone,"** a cooking demo and discussion led by food coach Yael Dolev. Also this month: EMU political science professor Jeff Bernstein discusses **"Bowling Alone, Governing Together"** (May 17), and Happy Feigelson leads **"Bubbe/Zaide, Satva/Saba, Grandma/Grandpa: A Lively Conversation on the Joys and Challenges of Grandparenting."** On May 17, the group is meeting at Zanzibar at noon for lunch before heading to the Michigan Theater for the 2 p.m. Jewish Film Festival Screening (see 10 Thursday listing). The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group**, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. Also, at noon, a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors). *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"Twelfth Night": Wild Swan Theater. See 2 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**Factory Tours: Motawi Tileworks.** *Every Thursday.* A Motawi artist leads a guided tour of every stage of tile-making. Attendees can watch artists at work. *11 a.m., Motawi, 170 Enterprise Dr. (north of Jackson Rd. between Staebler & Baker). Free. Call for reservations. 213–0017.*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31.* Performances by area and guest artists. Today: acoustic folk-rock by **Souls Alike.** Also this month: vintage American pop by the **Choral Connection** (May 10), popular to sacred music by the **Madrigals** (May 17), works by American composers Bill Bolcom and William Grant and European classical composers by the **Cumming-Robbins Duo** (May 24), and modern dance by the local company **People Dancing** (May 31). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital court-*

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yard, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thursday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *12:30–4 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $4 (nonresidents, $5). 769–5911.*

★**"Access Soapbox": Ann Arbor Community Television Network.** *Every Thursday.* A chance to express your views, discuss your activities, or announce upcoming events on the local public access station (cable channel 17). Participants are free to talk about anything they wish within CTN guidelines: no direct solicitation of funds, no lottery information, and no material that is obscene, defamatory, invasive of personal privacy, or infringing on copyrights or trademarks. Limited to 5 minutes, each segment features 1 or 2 speakers (with no more than 2 graphics) who talk directly to the camera. Production crew provided by CTN. *Access Soapbox* shows are aired daily for 1 week, beginning on Sunday. *2–7 p.m., CTN studio, LL114 Edison Center, 425 S. Main. Free. Reservations accepted Tues.–Fri. of the week preceding your appearance. 769–7422.*

"Fashionistas": Girl Scouts Huron Valley Council. Cocktails followed at 6:30 p.m. by dinner and a fashion show with community members—including Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins—modeling men's clothes by Bachrach and women's fashions by Coldwater Creek. *5:30 p.m., Kensington Court, 610 Hilton Blvd. $50 in advance only. 971–8800.*

★**"Chelsea Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 20–30 miles, to either Dexter, Grass Lake, or the Waterloo Recreation Area. *6 p.m., meet at the north side of Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1178 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★**"Garlic Mustard/Dame's Rocket Pull": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** A WCPARC naturalist TBA leads a hike around Parker Mill to yank out these invasive plants. Bring gloves. *6–8 p.m., Parker Mill County Park, Geddes just east of US-23. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"Runner's Clinic": Great Lakes Institute of Manual Therapy.** *May 3 & 17.* Beginning to advanced runners invited to get a gait and injury evaluation, learn about proper stretching and exercise, and receive a hands-on sample of physical therapy. *6–8 p.m., GLIOMT, 2058 S. State St. Free. 913–0300.*

★**"Cross Town Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Fast/moderate-paced ride, 15–35 miles, on dirt roads toward Chelsea and back. Cyclocross, mountain, or wide-tire touring bike recommended. *6:30 p.m., meet at 5960 Rollingwood Dr. (off Cedar Ridge via Park from Zeeb south of Jackson). Free. 474–7983.*

★**"Women Running Fit": Two Dogs Running.** *Every Thursday.* All women invited to run a different course, 2–6 miles, each week. Directed by a certified running coach. Maps provided. Runners who accumulate 50 miles receive a T-shirt from Running Fit. Men also invited to run. *6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 369–2492, 569–5016.*

★**"Meet the Mayor": Ann Arbor Jaycees.** A chance to quiz mayor John Hieftje about city government. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Holiday Inn Express room TBA, 600 Briarwood Circle. Free. 913–9629.*

★**"Thursday Evening Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Thursday.* Fast/moderate-paced 25-mile ride around northeast Ann Arbor that includes some good chances to improve your climbing skills. *6:45 p.m., meet at the Fuller Pool parking lot, Fuller Rd. Free. 996–9122.*

★**Weekly Meeting: Washtenaw Toastmasters.** *Every Thursday.* All invited to develop public-speaking skills and self-confidence in a warm, friendly environment. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet Mondays and Wednesdays (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Education Bldg., room 182, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. Dues: $35 semiannually (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $20). 678–2256.*

ACBL Bridge: Women's City Club. *Every Thursday.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Women's City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

★**Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health.** Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Thursday and Sunday.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★**"The Five Things You Must Know Before Buying a Condo—and Common Mistakes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Bingham Farms attorney Robert Meisner, coauthor of the 1978 Condominium Act in Michigan and author of *Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning, and Selling a Condominium. 7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**"Implementing the Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Nonmotorized Transportation Plans": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** Presentations by Washtenaw Area Transportation Study transportation planner Ryan Buck, Ann Arbor transportation program manager Eli Cooper, and Pittsfield Township deputy clerk Jan BenDor. (See "Where the Rubber Hits the Road," p. 59.) *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Freespace (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 214–0100.*

★**"Imagining Eden: Connecting Landscapes": U-M Museum of Art.** *May 3, 6, 17, & 20.* Docent-guided tours of this exhibit of photographs depicting everyday life in Eatonville, Florida, the oldest incorporated black town in the U.S. *7 p.m. (May 3 & 17) & 2 p.m. (May 6 & 20), UMMA Off/Site, 1301 South University. Free. 763–UMMA.*

★**"A Brief History of Geologic Thought": Huron Hills Lapidary Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by club member Chris Stefano. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 434–8517.*

"Creating a New Way of Living: Meditations on Actions and Their Effects": Vajrayana Buddhist Center. Talk by Gen Khedrub, the resident teacher of the Vajrayana Buddhist Center in Chicago. Also, a guided meditation and discussion. *7–8:30 p.m., 116 E. Washington, suite 220. $10. (248) 444–4633.*

★**Huron Symphony Orchestra: Huron High School.** Christopher Mark directs the group in works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Bach, and Gershwin. *7 p.m., Meyers Auditorium, Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2095.*

★**"Granta Best of Young American Novelists II": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Readings by three of the 20 fiction writers whose work is featured in this issue of the prestigious UK literary magazine, **Rattawut Lapcharoensap, Kevin Brockmeier,** and **Akhil Sharma.** Lapcharoensap, a U-M creative writing grad, reads from *Sightseeing*, his new collection of candid, insightful stories, set largely in contemporary Thailand, that explore family bonds, youthful romance, generational conflicts, and the cultural effects of Westernization. Brockmeier is a Little Rock, Arkansas, writer who has published 2 acclaimed fantasy novels, *The Brief History of the Dead* and *The Truth about Celia*, as well as 2 children's novels. Sharma is a New York City-based Indian writer who has published several short stories and an acclaimed debut novel, *An Obedient Father*, the story of a widower who lives with his widowed daughter and granddaughter in a tiny apartment in one of Delhi's poorer sections. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Thursday.* Instruction for intermediate-level dancers in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver (off Nixon). $4. 769–4324, 426–0241.*

★**Weekly Meeting: U-M Sailing Club.** *Every Thursday.* Tonight club members offer an overview of this local sailing club, which offers sailing and windsurfing instruction at its clubhouse at Base Line Lake. Also this month, club members discuss **"Upwind Sailing"** (May 10), **"Downwind Sailing"** (May 17), **"Knots"** (May 24), and **"Sailing First Aid"** (May 31). *7:45 p.m., Duderstadt Center Conference Room 4,2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 426–4299.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *Every Thursday.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *8–11 p.m., Michigan League Kuenzel Room (May 3 & 17), Palmer Commons Great Lakes North (May 10 & 31) and South (May 24) Room. Free. 971–1809.*

Over the Rhine: The Ark. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thursday through Sunday, April 26–June 10.* Gillian Eaton directs Peter Shaffer's 1981 Tony-winning drama about the consuming jealousy of Antonio Salieri, a composer who realizes his own mediocrity when confronted with the undeniable genius of a boorish young Mozart. Salieri sabotages Mozart's career to benefit his own, and his tormented guilt and Mozart's suffering make for a powerful contrast between 2 fundamentally unappealing characters. Cast: Malcolm Tulip, Chris Korte, Aphrodite Nikolovski, Loren Bass, Gregory Olszewski, and Charles Sutherland. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Apr. 26), $20 (Apr. 27 & 29 and May 3), and $28 (Apr. 28). May 4 opening night tickets: $37 includes reception. After May 4: $25 (Thurs.), $30 (Fri., Sat. matinee, & Sun.), and $35 (Sat. eve.). Discounts available for seniors & (during previews) adults under age 30. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. Half-price student rush tickets available 1 hour before showtime. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Kevin McPeek: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 3–5.* Manic, wisecracking topical and observational humor by this 320–pound New York City-based monologist who likes to spar with his audience and regale it with visions of himself naked. Opening act is **Tim Costello,** a Detroit comic. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 (Thurs.) & $8 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

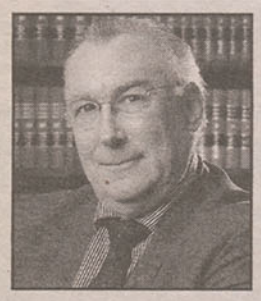
"The Host" (Bong Joon-Ho, 2006). See 1 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

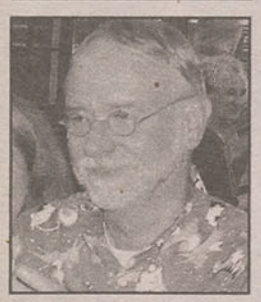
4 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). *May 4 & 25.* A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

★**"Music and Motion": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local early childhood educator **Gari Stein,** director of Music for Little Kids, is joined by Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra percussionist **John**

May 2007 EVENTS
Ann Arbor District Library





All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Tuesday **1**
Registration Begins: Cover to Cover Book Discussion of *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult • The discussion will take place June 12 at the Downtown Library • **Registration: 327.4560**

Thursday **3**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
The Five Things You Must Know Before You Buy a Condo–and Common Mistakes with author and attorney **Robert Meisner**

Friday **4**
9:30 - 10:00 am
Music & Motion: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo!
Repeated: 10:30 - 11:00 am • **Age 2 & up with adult**

Saturday **5**
2:00 - 3:30 pm
Film: *The Wind In The Willows*
Enjoy the new live-action version of this children's classic

Sunday **6**
2:00 - 4:00 pm
The Memory In The Mirror • A workshop with **BraveHeart Grief Services** for any woman who has experienced the death of her mother

Sunday **6**
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Comics with Curtis • Owner of the Vault of Midnight, **Curtis Sullivan**, shares his favorites and what's new • **Grades 6 - 12**
Downtown 4th Floor Board Room

Wednesday **9**
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Turning Memories Into Memoirs: A Seven-Session Writing Workshop for Adults with memoir expert **Sally Lawler**
Registration: 327.4560 • Downtown 4th Floor Conference Room

Wednesday **9**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Exercise, Nutrition and the Brain with fitness expert **Andrew Phelka** • Malletts Creek Branch

Wednesday **9**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Children Living and Dying with AIDS with South Africa sociologist **Tessa Marcus**

Thursday **10**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Growing Native Plants in Your Own Yard with **Greg Vaclavek** of Native Plant Nursery

Monday **14**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
How to Overcome Stage Fright and Speak in Front of an Audience with psychologist and musician **Julie Nagel**

Tuesday **15**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Life Story Workshop • How to shape personal and family-based stories with nationally-known storyteller **Donald Davis**

Wednesday **16**
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Teens: Make Your Own Poketo-Style Wallet!
Malletts Creek Branch • **Grades 6 - 12**

Thursday **17**
7:00 - 8:00 pm
Ann Arbor Book Festival Kick-Off Event featuring the **Chenille Sisters, children's authors, Washtenaw Literacy,** and **Reach Out and Read**

Friday **18**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor Book Festival Opening Reception
Mingle with the Festival's many distinguished authors

Saturday **19**
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Ann Arbor Book Festival Street Fair • N. University Avenue Pavilions and the UM Central Campus

Saturday **19**
12:30 - 1:30 pm
It's All Write Short Story Awards Ceremony at the Ann Arbor Book Festival • UM Modern Languages Building, Aud. 3

Tuesday **22**
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Chuck Barris, legendary television producer, discusses his new novel of the future of the TV game show, ***The Big Question***

Saturday **26**
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Abbott's Landscape Nursery demonstrates **Edible Herbs**
Pittsfield Branch

For more information call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

Dorsey and local pianist **Kathryn Goodson** to lead kids ages 2–6 (accompanied by an adult) in a Cinco de Mayo program featuring Joplin's *Mexican Serenade*, "Fossils" from Saint-Saens's *Carnival of the Animals*, and more. Participants also learn about the instruments. *9:30–10 & 10:30–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

Annual May Friendship Day: Church Women United. Women of all faiths are invited to fellowship, a worship service, and a chance to listen to and tell personal stories of faith. This year's theme, honoring local women clergy, is **"Friends under God's Wing."** Followed by lunch. *9:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Freewill offering. 665–8773.*

"Twelfth Night": Wild Swan Theater. See 2 Wednesday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

★**"Storytime with Mr. James": Arborland Borders.** *Every Friday.* Borders staffer "Mr. James" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. Today: Leo Lionni's ***It's Mine*** and ***Fish Is Fish.*** Also this month: Carl Norac's ***My Mommy Is Magic*** and Deborah Guarino's ***Is Your Mama a Llama?*** (May 11), H. A. Rey's ***Curious George Goes to the Aquarium*** and Milan Trenc's ***The Night at the Museum*** (May 18), and Judy Schachner's ***Skippyjon Jones*** and ***Skippyjon Jones in the Doghouse*** (May 25). *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 449–9394.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** *Every Monday & Friday.* All seniors invited to play bridge. No partner required. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Friday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *2–4 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Spring Things in Woods and Wetlands": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike around Park Lyndon to look for signs of spring. *2–4 p.m., meet at Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (east of M-52), Lyndon Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

"Spring Fiesta": Michigan Ability Partners. Vegetarian or chicken dinner. Also, live and silent auctions of a wide array of donated goods and services, with popular Premier Auctions (Ypsilanti) auctioneer Steve Gross. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit Michigan Ability Partners, a local agency that provides housing and support services for the homeless mentally ill and disabled. *5:30–10 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $65 in advance only. 975–6880.*

★**"Trunk Show": Heavenly Metal.** Heavenly Metal owner Vicki Honeyman celebrates her birthday today with this show and sale of handmade artworks. Wine and cake. *6–9 p.m., Heavenly Metal (inside Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts), 207 E. Ann. Free admission. 663–4247.*

6th Annual Auction: Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan. This silent auction with hearty hors d'oeuvres features a chance to bid on hundreds of canvas pillows hand stitched and hand decorated by community members. Other auction items include jewelry, wines, VIP sports tickets, spa vacations, and more. *6–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College, Morris J. Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Drive. Tickets $50 in advance and at the door. 973–6779.*

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** JCS students lead a secular Shabbat celebration that includes candle lighting, singing, and other Jewish rituals. Bring a dessert to pass. All invited. *6–8 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

U-M Baseball vs. Illinois. *May 4 & 6 (single games) and May 5 (doubleheader). 6:30 p.m. (May 4), 4:05 p.m. (May 5), & 1 p.m. (May 6), Ray Fisher Stadium. $5 (youths age 12 & under, $3; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

25th Anniversary Banquet: Hope Clinic. This Ypsilanti clinic that offers low-cost medicine to low-income people celebrates its 25th anniversary with a banquet. Also, a performance by local vocal ensemble **Cornerstone,** whose repertoire includes Christian, a cappella, folk, and humorous songs. *6:30 p.m., Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe Rd. $50 in advance only. 961–0540.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 996–1332.*

By Land, Sea, and Air

From the U-M's Transportation History Collection

One highlight of the U-M Graduate Library's absorbing transportation exhibition is a slender, pocket-size 1913 directory that lists all of the few owned cars in Michigan—"a combination social register and advertising tool," notes the exhibition catalog. The directory page on display reveals that about half of the cars are Fords, with the remainder divided among a wide variety of other car companies, including such forgotten brands as Nyberg, Babcock, Streator, Chalmers, and Krit. The list also shows that one person on the page owned two vehicles, a Cadillac and a car from a Kalamazoo company called "Michigan Buggy." This was Kalamazoo resident (and U-M alum) W. E. Upjohn, founder of what was originally called the "Upjohn Pill and Granule Company."

Nearby, a letter in the Michigan Central Railroad's letterbook—a scrapbook of correspondence to the company—contains a request from a parent of two boys killed by the railroad:

Bedford, Indiana, Jan. 25, 1863
Dear Sir,

I had the misfortune about 2 years ago to lose two children on the railroad, one a child of 3 years old was killed at Michigan City, the other, a young man of 21, was a brakeman on the Road and was killed at this place. I have frequently been advised by professional men to sue the company for damages but have no wish or desire to do so, but I think it not amiss for me to apply for an occasional free pass on the RR. Myself and family wished to visit some friends in Jackson, Michigan. We have received a free pass as far as Lafaette, which (station) application on representation of the circumstances has been freely granted us. If you will grant us a pass from Lafaette to Jackson we shall be much obliged. For proof of what I have stated I can refer you to the Robberts, and others at Michigan City.

Yours respectfully,
Horace Colegrove.

Instead of immediately granting this modest request, somebody scrawled in pencil on the bottom of the letter, "Robert—what about this case?"

Also on display is Italian military engineer and inventor Agostino Ramelli's lavish 1588 engraving of an imaginary mobile bridge, consisting of short wagonlike sections, from his displayed book *Le Diverse et Artificiose Machine*. We're told this book also contains Ramelli's famous "wheel-like machine that allows for the reading of multiple books without leaving one's seat." And there's a dainty proposed 1836 "aerial railroad" (pictured) with cars "Arrow" and "Dart" suspended on threadlike cables above the Thames, a velocipede whose entire frame is ingeniously shaped from one giant curvy leaf spring, and the facsimile of a Cyrillic-printed logbook from the first Moscow–North Pole–United States flight, in 1937, completed by "Airplane No. 25." The works are on display through Thursday, May 31.

—Laura Bien

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 West Liberty. *Works by Margaret Parker* (May 18–June 24). 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library. *Malletts Creek Branch,* 3090 Eisenhower Parkway: *Hands of a Displaced Sudan: The Cost of Silence* (May 4–29). 327–4510.

Dreamland Theater, 26 North Washington, Ypsilanti. *Community Retorted* (May 12–31). 657–2337.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, East Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall. *Chris Hyndman Selects Works from the Permanent Collection* (May 7–June 1). 487–1268.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood. *Traces* (May 14–18). 487–0465.

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Road. *Images of the Human Spirit* (May 1–June 17). 665–6158.

Gallery 55+, 2401 Plymouth Road. *Acrylics by Bill Plank and Mixed-Media Works by Denise Simmons* (through July 27). 998–8353.

Gallery Project, 215 South Fourth Avenue. *Functional Art* (May 9–June 17). 997–7012.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 North Fourth Avenue. *Fotogypsies: Photography by Angela and Jim George* (May 1–June 14). Reception 3 Thursday, 6–8 p.m. 769–2999.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron, Ypsilanti. *Riverside Art Gallery Volunteers* (May 3–26). Reception 5 Saturday, 5–7 p.m. ***DTE Annex:*** *Sketches in Bronze by C. Malcolm Powers and Photo Scenes by Marion S. Powers* (May 4–20). Reception 4 Friday, 4–8 p.m. 480–2787.

U-M Michigan Union, 530 South State. *Dream Seeding* (May 3–31). See 5 Saturday. 763–5750.

U-M Special Collections Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, seventh floor. *By Land, Sea, and Air: Historic Works from the Transportation History Collection* (through May 31). See review, above. 764–9377.

Washington Street Gallery, 120 East Liberty. *A Day at the Beach* (May 8–June 17). Reception 11 Friday, 7–9 p.m. 761–2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2006–2007 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

"Sensoiree": Dance Gallery Studio. A gala reception featuring screenings of a video compilation of excerpts of new works by U-M dance professor and Dance Gallery director Peter Sparling that illustrate a new process he is using to create his dances. Also, a DJ, nibbles, beer and wine. Raffle, door prizes. *7 p.m., 113½ W. Liberty. Tickets $30 in advance, $40 at the door. 747–8885.*

Spring Concert: Dance Body. *May 4 & 5.* A showcase of choreography in a variety of dance idioms by members of this all-city company, directed by Deborah Sipos-Roe, of students from Community, Pioneer, and Huron high schools and the Rudolf Steiner School. *7 p.m., Community High School, 401 N. Division. $8 (students, $5; family, $20) at the door only. 994–2021.*

★"May Moonlight Delight": Main Street Area Association. Sidewalk entertainers include Elvis tribute artist **Chris Solano,** juggler **Tim Salisbury,** and the local **Theatrical Control Network,** which performs 1-minute productions of *Macbeth* and the "Othello Rap." Also, swordfighting fairies. Many stores are open until midnight with special sales, and an artisans' market is held in the Farmers' Market. *7–9 p.m., downtown area between Main & State. Free. 668–7112.*

"WineFest 2007": Ann Arbor Art Center 25th Annual WineFest. This glittery swankfest features wine tastings, auctions, and a strolling supper, and usually draws more than 600 people. Tonight: a dinner at the Chop House accompanied by Joseph Phelps Vineyard and Chateau Palmer wines. Also, a chance to bid on items not available at tomorrow's auctions. Tomorrow: a strolling supper, wine tastings, and silent and live auctions of goodies that include wine, art, and entertainment and travel packages. Also, rare wine, champagne, port, sherry, and cognac specialty bars. WineFest typically provides around 20% of the Art Center's annual operating budget. *7 p.m. (May 4), Chop House, 322 S. Main St., & 6 p.m. (May 5), Ypsilanti Marriott, 1275 S. Huron (off I-94 exit 183), Ypsilanti. Tickets $150 (May 4) & $200 (May 5) in advance only. 994–8004, ext. 101.*

Westminster Concert Bell Choir: First Presbyterian Church. Kathleen Ebling-Thorne directs this renowned ensemble of Westminster Choir College (Princeton, New Jersey) undergrad and grad students, which performs on the world's largest set of handbells. The program includes handbell arrangements of classical and popular tunes. *7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Donation. 662–4466.*

Norah Jones: Live Nation. *See review, p. 000.* Ann Arbor debut of this celebrated young singer, daughter of the legendary sitarist Ravi Shankar. Her voice is a striking blend of sultry sensuality, soulfulness, and sheer power, and she sings in a style, influenced both by Billie Holiday and Willie Nelson, that seamlessly blends jazz, pop, country, and folk timbres and phrasings. Her recently released 3rd CD, the best-selling *Not Too Late*, is her first to feature all original songs, which range from brooding meditations on desire to the biting political satire "My Dear Country." *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater, 316 S. Main. Tickets $49.50–$60 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★Silent Meditation: Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. *Every Friday.* All invited to sit in silent meditation. *8–9 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers Studio B, 2007 S. State. Free; donations accepted. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

"Peasant Pageantry": Third Peasant from the Right. *May 4 & 5.* This quintet of local women presents its annual show, a high-energy, fast-paced family-oriented revue with lots of props and costume changes that this year takes a playful look behind the scenes of beauty pageants. Members are Judy Bate-

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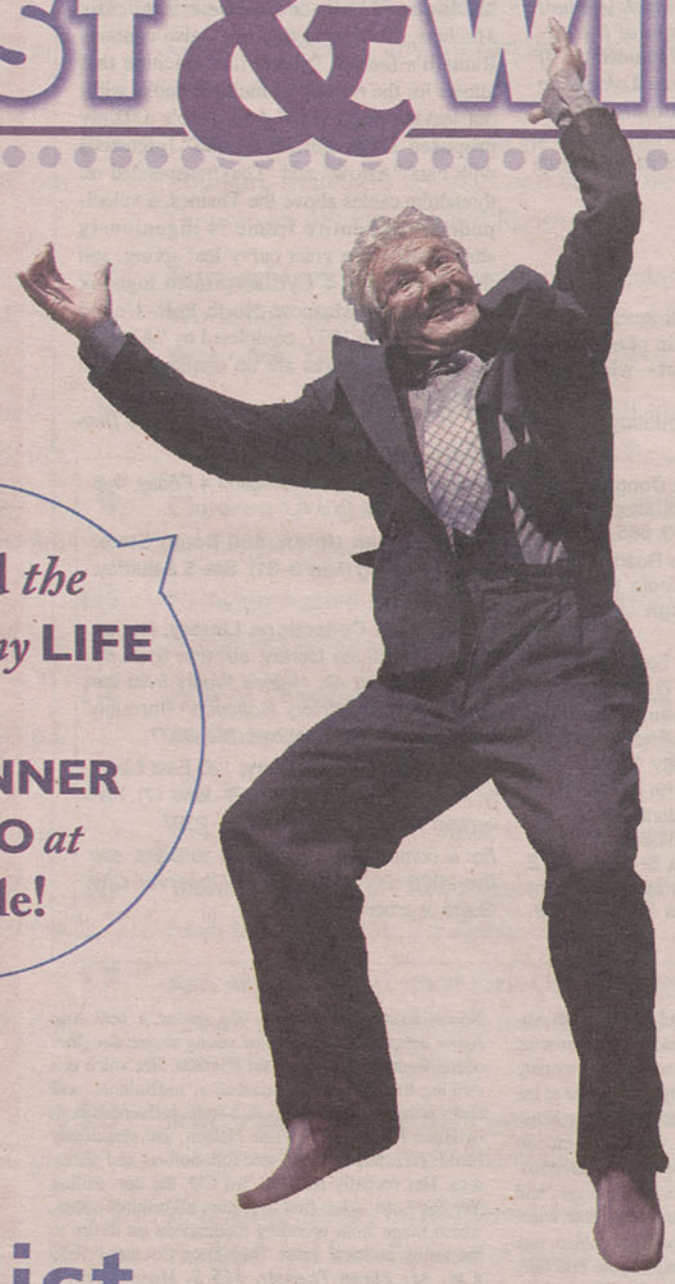

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4 FRIDAY *continued*

man, Mary Anne Martin, Carolyn Norton, Kate Restrick, and Carolyn Croley. Proceeds benefit the Saline Area Senior Center and Saline Social Services. *8 p.m., Liberty School, 7265 Ann Arbor Rd., Saline. $10 on May 4 & $8 on May 5 (seniors 55 & older, $8 on May 4 & $6 on May 5; children 12 & younger, $5 both days) in advance at the Senior Center and at the door. 429–9274.*

Nutshell: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. This local folk music ensemble performs instrumental music and songs with 2- to 4-part harmonies from a variety of Celtic cultures on Celtic harp, hammered dulcimer, whistles, sitar, guitars, fiddle, viola, and drums. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10 (members, $9). 769–1052.*

Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). *Note downtown location.* This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, Massachusetts, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released 4 acclaimed CDs, including the recent *Live in Michigan*. A big hit in earlier Green Wood appearances. *8 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Jorrit Dijkstra/Tony Malaby Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House. Avant-garde and postbop saxophonist Malaby and Boston-based Dutch saxophonist, lyricon player, tin whistle player, and electronic musician Dijkstra lead their ensemble in whimsical improvisations that combine squeaks, metallic tinkling, pings, and whistle swoops to create airy, twinkling music that suggests popcorn popped from sequins. "Who knows what to call it—improv electronica? grotesque minimalism? cyborg jazz?" says one critic in a review of Dijkstra's CD *Sequence*. With cellist Fred Lonberg-Holm, bassist Jason Roebke, and drummer Frank Rosaly. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

Utah Phillips: The Ark. Known alternately as "the golden voice of the great Southwest" and "a rumor in his own time," Phillips is a veteran folksinger and storyteller whose art blends politics, humor, music, and homespun philosophy into an original vision of the world. His huge repertoire features hundreds of traditional songs (including scads of railroad songs and just about every Wobbly song ever written) and more than 100 originals, including the great "Rock Salt and Nails." His last 2 CDs, *The Past Didn't Go Anywhere* and *Fellow Workers*, were produced by Ani DiFranco, who also set several of his tales to music. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $25 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Cyrano de Bergerac": Huron High School. *April 27 & 28 and May 4 & 5.* Bj Wallingford and Pam Cardell direct Huron students in Edmond Rostand's romantic verse drama about an eloquent yet painfully self-conscious soldier who agrees to ghost-write his friend's love letters to the woman he himself secretly loves. *8 p.m., Tickets $8 (students & seniors, $6). Meyers Auditorium, Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. 994–2095.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Kevin McPeek: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★"An Evening of Yogic Chants, Mantra, and Kirtan": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. An ensemble of local musicians leads the audience in a program of meditative, energizing, and healing yogic chants. Performers are vocalist Dennis Chernin, guitarist Glenn Burdick, harmonium player Atmaram, tabla player John Churchville, and cellist Alice Greminger. *8:30–10:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

"Swing Dance Party": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Friday.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and balboa dancing, with DJs TBA. No partner necessary. Bring a clean pair of shoes to change into. Free 8 p.m. beginner lesson. *8:45 p.m.–midnight, danceRevolution, 603 E. William. $5 (students with ID, $4). 945–8428.*

Maria Muldaur: The Firefly Club. Best known for her 1974 pop hit "Midnight at the Oasis," Muldaur is a versatile vocalist, with a range that moves effortlessly from a throaty growl to a startlingly pure upper register. She can belt out a raucous, bawdy blues, light up an emotionally charged ballad, or swing hard with hornlike phrasing on a jazz standard. Her acclaimed 2001 CD *Richland Woman Blues* is an col-

Norah Jones

Quiet conversation

The layers of Norah Jones's voice shine softly in the illumination cast by a tune. The voice seems too ordinary to have fascinated listeners as it has, but its grain is unique. Born Geethali Norah Jones Shankar in 1979, she is the daughter of Indian sitar legend Ravi Shankar and American concert promoter Sue Jones. "I felt I could be in love with different women in different places," Shankar writes in his autobiography. "It was like having a girl in every port—and sometimes there was more than one!"

When Sue Jones tired of this arrangement, she moved to Dallas, where Norah attended the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, a multicultural magnet school whose alumni also include neosoul singer Erykah Badu. Growing up in Dallas she also heard her fair share of country music, and she has cited Willie Nelson as a primary inspiration. You can hear that in the uncannily conversational quality of her singing, accomplished by both singers without recourse to spoken passages. Her voice doesn't have exceptional range either technically or emotionally, but it draws by turns on little moves from jazz, blues-rock, country, and singer-songwriter folk. And there's a little bright-colored thread of her Indian ancestry running through her vocal style, heard in its centering on nose and throat and in the little grace notes that attach themselves effortlessly to notes toward phrase ends. All this is wrapped up into singing so relaxed that you don't realize how unusual it is.

The country aspect is somewhat diminished in Jones's newest music, diverted into a band she's formed called the Little Willies. But it's still there in the plain forms of her songwriting, which comes to the fore on her latest album, *Not Too Late*. Jones wrote most of the music with her longtime romantic and musical partner, bassist Lee Alexander, and it marks quite a departure from her first two albums. The musical accompaniments are strikingly minimal, mostly acoustic guitar, bass or bowed cello, and Jones's own sparse keyboards. Of albums that have reached the top spot on the U.S. pop charts, it's certainly the quietest in years, maybe decades. One song features a whistled tune, another a kind of muttered scatting through a trombone. Jones's compositions are mostly romantic, with excursions into Tom Waits–style black retro and a wry response to the last election. They're not virtuoso efforts, but they fit her voice in a way that heightens the extremely reflective atmosphere to a degree where it becomes hypnotic.

Taken together, the songs and accompaniment suggest an artist who has asserted control over her career even after reaching a level of fame where such a thing is usually impossible. The Michigan Theater, where Jones appears on Friday, May 4, should be the right place for the unusually intimate experience Jones's new music offers: Hill Auditorium, which she surely could have filled, is too big, and the concrete walls of the Power Center would have detracted from the making-music-in-the-living-room quality of her latest material.

—James M. Manheim

lection of songs by Memphis Minnie and other early female blues pioneers, and her latest CD, *Heart of Mine*, is a collection of often revelatory covers of Dylan love songs. *9 & 11 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $25 at the door only. 665–9090.*

"May Madness 2007": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *May 4–6.* What organizers call "an admittedly crazed weekend of necessarily excessive tangoing" kicks off tonight with a dance party. *9:30 p.m.–8 a.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. $10 (students, $5). 973–2338.*

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Astronomy Department. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, Student Astronomy Society members give short presentations on a variety of astronomy topics. *10 p.m.–midnight, fifth floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left to the fifth floor). Free. 764–3440.*

FILMS

"Year of the Dog" (Mike White, 2007). *May 4–10.* When a 40ish spinster's beagle dies, her quest to replace him turns quirky. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

5 SATURDAY

★"Sunrise Saturday Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Saturday.* Very slow-paced 22-mile ride to Dexter for breakfast. Begins at sunrise. *6:25 a.m. (May 5), 6:17 a.m. (May 12), 6:10 a.m. (May 19), & 6:04 a.m. (May 26), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 665–6327, 913–9851.*

"Bigger 'n Texas Sale": Ann Arbor News. This giant community garage sale features a wide range of items, including tools, clothes, furniture, books, collectibles, tchotchkes, spring-cleaning casualties, and other treasures. Also, vendors sell antiques, jewelry, garden art, and more. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Admission $2.50. Booth rentals for sellers: $40–$70. 994–6869.*

★"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube." *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads beginners and advanced practitioners in these slow meditative movements. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 930–2747.*

★"Dexter Breakfast Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Saturday.* Beginner-friendly slow-paced (22 miles) and moderate/fast-paced (30 to 80 miles) round-trip rides to the Dexter Bakery. A very popular ride. *Note:* Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone or change for a phone call, and snacks. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St., or at Barton Park, Huron River Dr. Free. For information, call 665–8311 (May 5), 994–6340 (May 12), 996–9461 (May 19) & 663–2540 (May 26).*

★Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. *May 5, 19, & 20.* All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Also, city staffers lead a short nature walk at the end of each workday. Snacks & tools provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. Today: a trip to **Greenview Park** to remove invasive plants. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Greenview Park sign across from Barnard Rd. on Greenview Rd. (off Scio Church Rd. west of S. Seventh St.). Free. 996–3266.*

4th Annual Quilt Show: St. Andrew's United Church of Christ Piece-Makers Quilt Group. Sale of 100 old and new quilts, ranging from some stitched as long ago as the mid-1800s to some completed this month. Also, demonstrations of wool projects by local fabric artist Suzanne Van Natter. Raffle of a queen-size quilt with matching pillow shams and throw pillows. Lunch available 11 a.m.–2 p.m. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., St. Andrew's United Church of Christ, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $4. 426–4980.*

★27th Annual Spring Plant Sale: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. *May 5 & 6.* Show and sale of over 1,000 plants, including herbs, ferns, vines, corms, roses, grasses, bushes, rushes, creepers, climbers, festive baskets, rock garden plants, sun-loving plants, shade-loving plants, medium-light-loving plants, and dainty woodland flowers. Highlights include a dizzying variety of clematises, irises, hostas, and scented geraniums. Also, free talks on **rain barrels** (May 5, 10 a.m., & May 6, 1:15 p.m.), **alternative ground covers** (May 5, 11 a.m.), **vermicomposting** (May 5, noon, & May 6, 4 p.m.), **herbs** (May 5, 1 p.m., & May 6, 1:15 p.m.), **gardening with kids** (May 5, 1:30 p.m.), **heirloom bulbs** (May 5, 2 p.m.), **floral displays** (May 5, 3 p.m., & May 6, 3:15 p.m.), **native plant gardening** (May 5, 3:30 p.m., & May 6, 2 p.m.), **prairie plants** (May 5, 4 p.m.), and **vegetable gardening** (May 6, 2:45 p.m.). Sale of tools, garden art, and accessories and a chance to quiz plant people. *Note:* There's a members-only preview show and sale, with $45 memberships available at the door (May 4, 3–7 p.m.). *9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (Sat.), noon–4:30 p.m. (Sun.), Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free admission. 998–7061.*

★Hunter Trials: Waterloo Hunt Club. Skilled area riders guide their horses through a course of 8–10 3-foot fence jumps and other obstacles. Also, on May 6 a Hunter Pace competition (11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.) in which participants try to sustain the ideal pace for hunting. *9:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Waterloo Hunt Club, corner of Glenn at Katz (west off Mount Hope Rd. from I-94 exit 150), Grass Lake. Free. For more information, call Arlene Taylor at (517) 522–3409. Show grounds: (517) 522–5311.*

★"Leaves Unfurled: Arb Ramble": U-M Nichols Arboretum. Local naturalist Robert Ayotte leads a hike through the Arb to spot blooms and fruits of woody plants. *9:30 a.m., meet at the Reader Center, 1610 Washington Heights. Free. Preregistration required. 647–7600.*

★Walk: Grex. *Every Saturday (different locations).* All invited to join members of this local computer-conferencing group for a walk, either along trails in Bird Hills Nature Area (May 5) or from Gallup Park through Nichols Arboretum (May 12, 19, & 26). *10 a.m., meet at the Newport Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Nature Area (May 5) and in Gallup Park parking lot (May 12, 19, & 26), 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 741–9351.*

★Lost Nations State Game Area Hike: Sierra Club. All invited to visit this Hillsdale County natural area for a 2–3-hour hike to examine spring wildflowers. *10 a.m., carpool meeting spot TBA. Free. 971–9013.*

★"Trek Around Ann Arbor": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." Heather O'Neal leads a hike, 8–9 miles, around the Old West Side and a number of the city's beautiful greenspaces to the U-M Arboretum. Lunch & snacks provided along the way. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., meet at the Eighth Street Trekkers Lodge, 180 8th St. Free. 214–0100.*

★9th Annual Garlic Mustard Weed-Out Day: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation. All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff remove garlic mustard that's invading the woodlands in 3 city nature areas: Argo Park, Bird Hills, and Cedar Bend. Dress for outdoor work; minors must be accompanied by a guardian or obtain a release form in advance. Followed by a **Weed-Out Day BBQ** (1:30–5 p.m.) at the Island Park Pavilion. Burgers,

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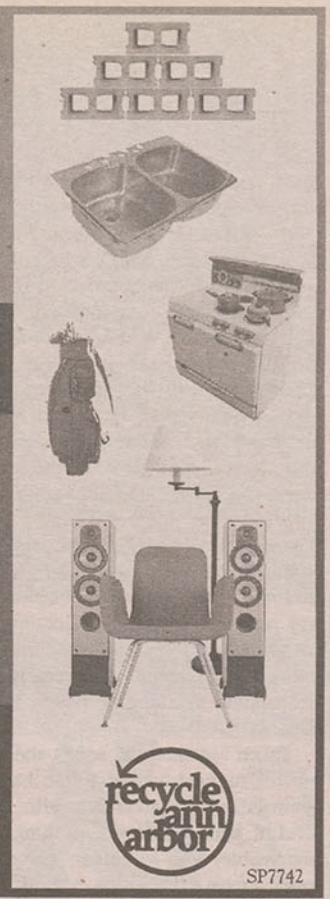

2007 Ann Arbor Antiques Market
39th Season
5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI
Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds
(Exit #175 off of I-94, then south 3 miles)
2007 Show Schedule:
Sunday, May 20 • Sunday, June 17
Sat & Sun, July 14 & 15 • Sunday, Aug. 19
Sat & Sun, Sept. 15-16 • Sunday, Oct. 21
Sunday, Nov. 4
All Shows 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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Special Feature of the Month: Antiques in the Garden
For further information:
Doug Supinger • P.O. Box 818 • Troy, Ohio 45373
Cell: 937-875-0808 • Fax: 937-335-8396 • anersoup@aol.com

buns, condiments, & beverage provided. Bring a dish to pass or anything you'd like to have grilled. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Bird Hills Nature Area (meet at the Bird Rd. entrance), Black Pond Woods Nature Area (meet in the Leslie Science Center parking lot, 1831 Traver Rd.), Cedar Bend Nature Area (meet at the Island Park parking lot on Island Dr. off Maiden Lane), Dolph Nature Area (meet at the trailhead off Parklake just south off Jackson Rd.), Hannah Nature Area (meet at the Lakewood Elementary School parking lot on Gralake Ave. south from Jackson Rd.), & Redbud Nature Area (meet at the entrance at the intersection of Jeanne & Parkwood north off Edgewood from Platt). Free. 996–3266.*

★Open House and Work Day: Community Farm of Ann Arbor. All invited to visit this communally owned organic farm and pitch in, for an hour or the whole day. Help finish a chicken coop, clean the barn, weed, and paint, or just chat with the farm owners. Kids can pet cows, goats, kitties, and chickens. The farm's unusually tame birds are famous for coming over to sitting children and plopping right in their laps. Bring a bag lunch. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Community Farm of Ann Arbor, 1525 S. Fletcher Rd., Chelsea (take Scio Church Rd. west to just past Lima Center Rd. and turn north on Fletcher). Free. (734) 433–0261.*

"Sharon Mills Rededication and Hike": Washtenaw Land Trust. County naturalist Cathy Marquardt discusses plant identification, threats to wildflower areas, and "indicator species" that offer clues about the range or health of a given habitat. Followed by a hike to find and identify wildflowers, and an optional noontime preserve rededication ceremony with refreshments. Bonus: free flower guidebook. *10 a.m.–noon, Creekshead Nature Preserve, west side of Curtis Rd. between Brookville and Five Mile rds. $15 (Stewardship Network/Land Trust members, $10). 302–LAND.*

Tour: Zingerman's Bakehouse. *Every Saturday.* A chance to view artisanal bread and pastry baking and get a free treat. Kids under age 6 not admitted. *10 a.m., Zingerman's Bakehouse, 3711 Plaza Dr. $5 (kids ages 6–12, free). Reservations required. 761–7255.*

"Sciencepalooza": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *May 5 & 6.* This popular monthly exhibit in the concourse area features an array of attended hands-on activity tables. This month's program: **"Creepy Crawly Creatures."** *10 a.m.–5 p.m. (May 5) & noon–5 p.m. (May 6), Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★"Go Solar!": Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association. GLREA staff discuss this program that allows cooperating homeowners to make economical bulk purchases of solar heating equipment. *10–11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. Preregistration requested. (800) 434–9788.*

★"Remediation Gardening: Using Plants to Clean Up Toxic Waste": Project Grow. Talk by recent U-M architecture grad Mike Exban. *10 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free; donations encouraged. 996–3169.*

★Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Gray Panthers members Barbara Clarke and Sam DeNicolo review 2 books about the use of mercenaries in Iraq, Jeremy Scahill's ***Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*** and Robert Pelton's ***Licensed to Kill: Hired Guns in the War on Terror.*** Discussion follows. Preceded at 9:45 a.m. by coffee & socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★Downtown Home & Garden Spring Lecture Series. *Every Saturday.* Today: a Project Grow representative introduces **"Basic Organic Gardening Techniques and Plant Choices,"** including information about heirloom vegetables. Also this month: local master gardener Gwen Reynolds discusses **"Kids Garden Projects"** (May 12) and **"Vegetable Container Gardening"** (May 19), and Vandenberg Bulb Company (Howell) sales rep Tom Kraft discusses **"Selection and Care of Ornamental Container Garden Plants"** (May 26). *10 a.m.–1 p.m., DH&G, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

2007 Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Festival: Jugglers of Ann Arbor. Jugglers of all ability levels invited to join jugglers from around Michigan and beyond for a day of freeform juggling and juggling workshops. Events include various juggling games, chances to practice juggling, a sale of juggling items, and more. Also, participants are expected to gather on the U-M Diag for open juggling on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon. *Note:* Attendees 17 and younger need a parent-signed waiver. *10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wide World Sports Center indoor soccer field, 2140 Oak Valley Dr. $1. 761–1115.*

★6th Annual Physics Olympiad: U-M Physics Department. Area high school teams battle in this fun, creative competition that involves a variety of contests: For **"Laser Maze"** (4263 Randall, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students build a mirror-maze for a laser with the laser turned off. In **"Think or Sink"** (1221 & 1233 Randall, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students build a barge and calculate its maximum load. In **"Solar Wheels"** (1224 & 1261 Randall, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students build a solar car. In **"Hot Air Balloons"** (Dennison Math Atrium, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students try to lift a load of sand. In **"Supercollider"** (location TBA, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students simulate a colliding-beams experiment with pucks. In **"Dueling Catapults"** (Dennison lawn, 10:30–11:50 a.m. & 1–2:50 p.m.) students hurl water balloons up to 60 feet. The event concludes with a **quiz bowl** (170 Dennison, 3–4 p.m.) and **awards ceremony** (170 Dennison, 4–4:30 p.m.). *10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Randall, 450 Church, & Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764–3443.*

Great Strides Walk-a-Thon: Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Metropolitan Detroit Chapter. After making a donation or raising pledges for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, walkers stroll around the park for up to 10 km. Light snacks and beverages. Kids activities. Rain or shine. *11 a.m. (check-in begins at 10 a.m.), Gallup Park (west of Huron Pkwy.). Donations or pledges. Pledge forms available at cff.org and (248) 269–8759.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Saturday.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Disc golf is a popular sport played with a Frisbee-like disc; the goal is to land the disc in a "pole hole" in the fewest shots. In draw doubles play, beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *11 a.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $4 per player; free for spectators. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 449–4300.*

★Storytelling: Borders Express. *Every Saturday.* Children's book authors TBA read from their books. Followed by signing. *11 a.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Saturday.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. Curious George swings in for a visit after the May 19 storytime. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Pickup Game: Ann Arbor Ultimate. All invited to a pickup game of a spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *11:30 a.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.com.*

"The Sky Tonight"/"Stellar Extremes": U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Saturday & Sunday. The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Saturdays and 1:30 & 3:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual exploration of the current night sky. *Stellar Extremes* (12:30 p.m. Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. both days) is an audiovisual show about unique stars, from the biggest, hottest, and closest to the smallest, coolest, and farthest. Followed by a brief star talk. *11:30 a.m. & 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $3.75. 764–0478.*

"O-Meet": Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. *May 5 & 20 (different locations).* All invited to try this at-your-own-pace sport of reading maps and compasses to follow an outdoor course. Maps, some compasses available. No experience necessary. *Noon–2 p.m., Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. $5 (members, $4; beginners, $3). 662–1000.*

★"May Day Picnic": People's Progressive Network. All invited to join a potluck (bring a dish to share; table service provided) and hear talks by PPN speakers memorializing longtime PPN member Judy Duboff. Recorded 30s workers' songs. Rain or shine. In commemoration of International Workers Day. *1 p.m., County Farm Park (Platt Rd. lot). Free. 662–6036.*

★"Wildflowers in the Nan Weston Preserve in Sharon Hollow": Washtenaw Audubon Society/Wild Ones. Naturalist Dorothy Blanchard leads a hike through one of the most botanically rich areas in the county to see spring ephemerals. *Afternoon time and meeting place TBA. Free. Reservations required; space limited. 426–2862, 572–0333.*

"Livin' It Up Downtown Loft Tour": Main Street Area Association. A chance to tour 7 inhabited downtown condos and apartments on South Main, East Washington, and West Liberty. *1–5 p.m., various downtown locations. Tickets $15 in advance and day of tour at Conor O'Neill's and Seyfried Jewelers. 668–7112.*

★Bird Hills Neighborhood Coalition Series: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. *Every Sunday, April 15–May 5.* All invited to help city parks natural area preservation staff restore and maintain the natural areas in Bird Hills Park. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *1–4 p.m., meet at the Bird Rd. entrance to Bird Hills Park. Free. 996–3266.*

★"Ice Age: The Meltdown": Waterloo Recreation Area. Waterloo Recreation Area park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh discusses what spring was like in Michigan 10,000 years ago. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★Dinosaur Tours: U-M Exhibit Museum. *Every Saturday & Sunday.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★Beltaine Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to join local neopagans for this ancient Celtic holiday that celebrates fertility. Last year's ceremony featured hot dog toasting, headwater collecting, dancing around the Maypole, and fire leaping. Raffle. Preceded by an overnight firewatch starting sunset Friday. *2–5 p.m., Botsford Recreational Preserve, 3015 Miller Rd. (just west of M-14 overpass). Free. 697–2514.*

★"The Wind in the Willows": Ann Arbor District Library. Screening of this acclaimed new live-action film adaptation of the Kenneth Grahame children's classic that premiered on *Masterpiece Theatre* on PBS in April. Starring British comedian Matt Lucas as gadget-crazed Mr. Toad, the cast also features Bob Hoskins as the stern Badger, Mark Gatiss as the easy-going Ratty, and Lee Ingleby as the diffident but loyal Mole. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

"Twelfth Night": Wild Swan Theater. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

Kids Drum Circle: Oz's Music. All kids invited to join a drumming session hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $10. 662–8283.*

★ASL/Silent Coffee Hour. All hearing and deaf American Sign Language speakers invited to an hour of chat in American Sign Language (ASL). *4 p.m., Eastern Accents, 214 S. Fourth Ave. Free. silent-coffee@sbcglobal.net.*

★In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion of ***Blind Trust,*** Leslie Banks's novel, the latest in her "Trust" series, about financial genius Laura Caldwell's efforts to deal with the aftermath of a hurricane. *4 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 942–6013.*

★Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club. Local Russian children present (in Russian) their original dramatizations of Pushkin's ***Tale of the Pope and of his Workman Balda*** and of Gogol's ***Dead Souls.*** English synopses provided. *5 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741–1953.*

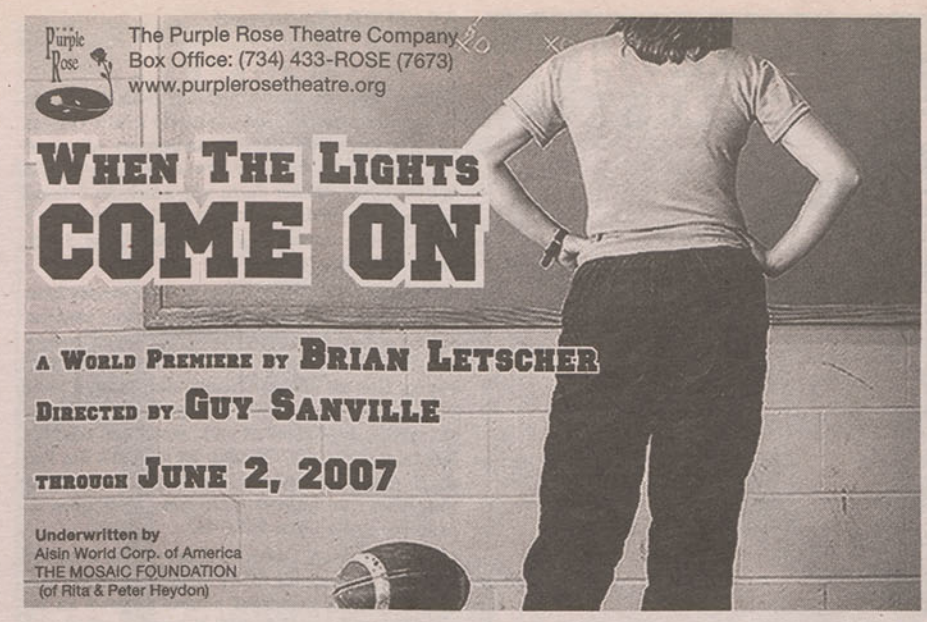
★ASL Storytelling: Ann Arbor Deaf Club. *May 5 & 19.* All invited to tell or observe stories told in American Sign Language by ASL storytellers Terri Fear, Phil King, and others. *6–7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Library Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw. Free. 971–6059.*

★Children's Movie: Arborland Borders. *Every Saturday.* Kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to bring teddy bears and watch a family film TBA. Popcorn. *6 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★"Dream Seeding": Artists for Peace. Local singer-songwriter **Joe Reilly,** whose songs draw on blues, Native American, and other traditional American idioms, performs at this reception for a show (see Galleries) of artworks by community members that speak to a more peaceful world. *6–9 p.m., Michigan Union Art Lounge. Free. 996–5962.*

"Cinco de Mayo Celebration": Alebrije Productions. This local Latino cultural group presents a family-oriented program highlighted by a performance in Spanish of *Se Vende una Mula (A Mule for Sale),* a comedy of errors directed by Viviana Urrutia. Also, Mexican folk dances, games, pinatas, food, and more. *6–9:30 p.m., First Methodist Church Cultural Hall, 209 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti. $6 (kids, $4) in advance through May 2 at alabrije.uem@gmail.com and at the door. 330–1890.*

"Yoga Trance Dance": A2 Yoga Studio. Michael Gibson-Faith and Jo Horn lead a session of easy, fluid movement combining elements of yoga and dance. *7–9 p.m., A2 Yoga, 2450 W. Stadium. $15. 929–0274.*



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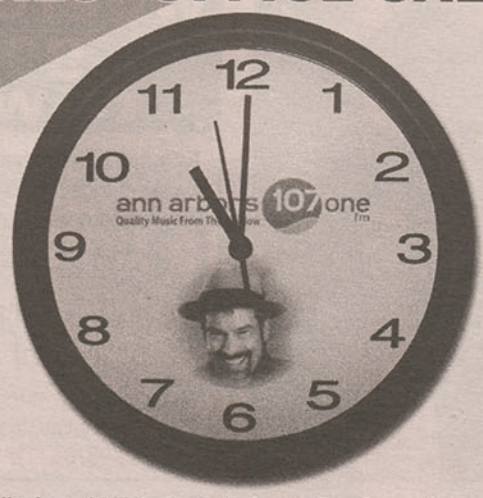

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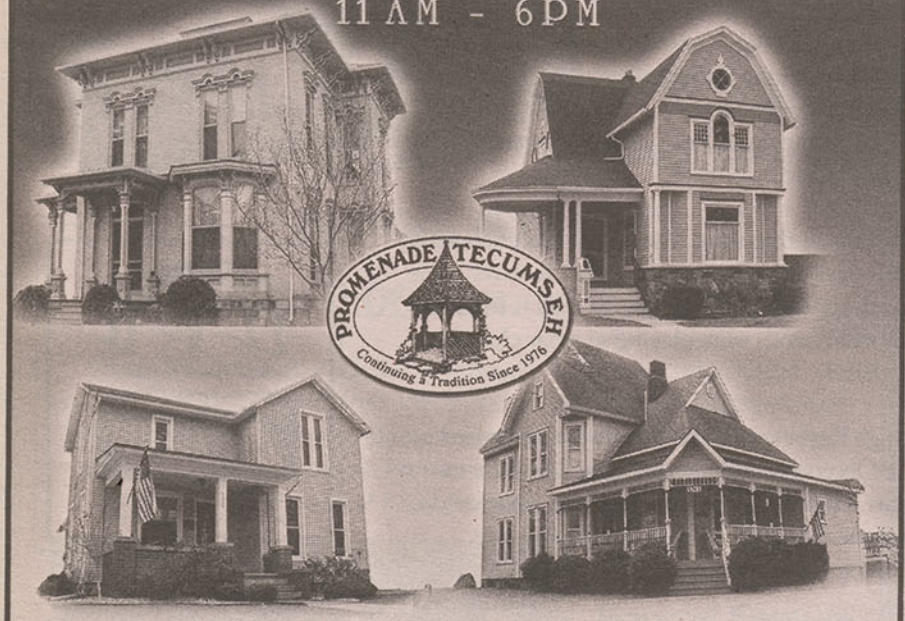
11 AM - 6PM



WEEKEND EVENTS

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS • CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENTS
LOST ARTS • HISTORICAL MUSEUM • ANTIQUE BICYCLE EXHIBIT •
RAGTIME BAND • HISTORIC CEMETERY TOURS • VINTAGE FASHION
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5 SATURDAY *continued*

★**John Sinclair: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This local counterculture legend, currently a New Orleans resident, reads from the 35th anniversary edition of his *Guitar Army: Rock and Revolution with the MC5 and the White Panther Party,* which includes 2 dozen previously unpublished photos and some of Sinclair's recent writing. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Crossroads."** Several Ypsilanti businesses have gotten together to host a weekly outdoor musical stage that runs June through August. Tonight's show is a Cinco de Mayo preview that is headlined by **Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band,** a local sextet led by percussionist Muruga Booker that performs an upbeat blend of rock, worldbeat, hip-hop, folk, jazz, and more. Opening act is **Paul's Big Radio,** a rootsy country-pop band led by local singer-songwriter Paul Lippens. *7–10 p.m., Washington St. at Michigan Ave. Free. 945–7442.*

Donald Walden Quintet: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz ensemble led by Walden, an award-winning U-M tenor saxophone professor known for his smoky, mellow sound. With the renowned pianist Barry Harris, vibes player Steve Nelson, bass player Robert Hurst, and drummer Louis Hayes. *7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15, $20, & $30 in advance and at the door. 769–2999.*

Dexter Twirlers Square Dance Club. *May 5 & 19.* Glen Geer calls square dances for experienced dancers to recorded music. No partner necessary. Wear soft-soled shoes (not tennis shoes). *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Church, 7610 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. $5. 433–0308.*

1st Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Rosemary Carus and Terry Richards call dances to music by Bowling Green's Root Cellar String Band. No partner needed. All dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 3–6 p.m. by a free open jam for string and other musicians (769–4220). *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Breakin' Curfew": University Musical Society/ Neutral Zone. Variety show featuring local and area teen performers, including members of the **Pioneer High School band and orchestra** programs, the Huron High School rock band **Creature,** the **Community High School Dance Body**, the hip-hop ensemble **Niacal Youngstars,** the funk band **True Funk Soldiers,** the indie rock band **Plan B,** the afrobeat band **Biakoye,** harpist **Anne Keller,** a jazz ensemble led by pianist **Marc Phillips,** a teen **mariachi band** TBA, and the **Mosaic Youth Singers,** a Detroit vocal ensemble whose repertoire includes classical, music theater, contemporary pop, and spirituals. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $15 in advance and at the door (students, $8 in advance; $10 at the door). 214–9995.*

Christine Lavin: The Ark. A widely acclaimed New York City singer-songwriter known for her sharp wit and comically warped perspectives, Lavin has been described as a mix of Bette Midler, Tom Lehrer, Steve Goodman, and Janis Ian. She's also known for her bittersweet miniatures of lost romance, and she's a tastily tuneful composer, a superb guitarist, and a playfully unpredictable performer whose shows are always sprinkled with a healthy dose of between-songs humor and spiky commentary. The material on her latest CD, *FolkZinger,* ranges from comic hilarity to wry political satire to poignant balladry. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Lorraine Feather & Shelly Berg: The Firefly Club. Mainstream jazz by the duo of veteran New York City vocalist and lyricist Feather and UCLA piano professor Berg. Feather's songs have been featured in a number of films, including *The Jungle Book II* and *The Princess Diaries II,* and she has released acclaimed CDs of both Fats Waller and Duke Ellington compositions with her lyrics. "She's at ease within her musical skin, singing her deceptively light, fresh lyrics to swing era chestnuts with delicacy, fluency, and sly fun. Tongue-in-cheek? You betcha, but deliciously savvy," says *DownBeat* reviewer Fred Bouchard. "Meticulous charts and Feather's pinpoint execution nudge these gems beyond novelty, urging later listenings." Feather is currently composing the libretto for Stefania de Kenessey's opera adaptation of Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities. 8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $20 at the door only. 665–9090.*

"Cyrano de Bergerac": Huron High School. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Kevin McPeek: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Serious about Salsa": danceRevolution Dance Studio. *May 5 & 19.* High-energy salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. Bring a clean pair of shoes to change into. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, 603 E. William. $5. 945–8428.*

Cinco de Mayo Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

"May Madness 2007": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 4 Friday. Tonight: dance party with music by a DJ TBA. Followed at 1:30 a.m. by a "Milonga till Dawn" dance party ($10; students, $5) with DJ Robin Thomas at the Pittsfield Grange. Preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a variety of dance lessons. 9:30 p.m.–6 a.m.

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Army of Shadows" (Jean-Pierre Melville, 1969). *Today only.* Newly restored copy of the low-key, intense drama about the French Resistance during WW II. French, subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Year of the Dog"** (Mike White, 2007). See 4 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

6 SUNDAY

★**Annual Potawatomi Trail Hike: Sierra Club.** Enjoy a 17-mile hike through hilly glacial terrain sprinkled with lakes. Bring a sack lunch and water. Canceled if rain. *8 a.m., meet at City Hall parking lot to carpool. Free. 483–0058.*

★**Falun Gong.** *Every Sunday.* Local practitioners introduce this Chinese discipline, which consists of 5 exercises and meditation. *8:30–10:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 834–4978.*

28th Annual Burns Park Run: Burns Park PTO. Around 1,000 people ages 5–85 attend this popular family affair. This year's event offers 5 km and 10 km chip-timed races, a 5 km walk along the beautiful tree-lined streets of the Burns Park area, and a roughly 1-mile kid-popular "fun run" around the park. Awards for overall and male and female winners in both races, male and female masters, male and female top 3 per age group, trophies for first place, latte mugs for 2nd and 3rd, and trophies for kids by grade level. Free postrace brunch. This year's special guest is U-M running coach **Francie Goodridge.** Bring your own chip or borrow one from race organizers. Proceeds benefit Burns Park PTO programs. *8:30 a.m. (5 km events), 8:40 a.m. (10 km run), 10 a.m. (fun run). Entry fees: $15 (5 km & 10 km events) and $5 (fun run) by May 2; cost after May 3 $5 extra. Entry forms available at Tortoise and Hare and Running Fit. 747–6952.*

★**"Classic Bike-a-Thon Routes": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** The Ecology Center's annual Bike-a-Thon fund-raiser moved several years ago from the second Sunday in May to the first Sunday in June, but today's AABTS ride features 3 favorite Bike-a-Thon routes: the fast-paced 96-mile "Waterloo Wanderer," the moderate-paced 58-mile "Chelsea Metric," and the slow-paced 29-mile "County Loop." *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 426–5116 (96-mile ride), 996–9461 (58-mile ride), 769–1025 (29-mile ride).*

★**"T'ai Chi Ch'uan at the Cube."** *Every Saturday & Sunday.* Local t'ai chi instructor Chad Eisner leads beginners and advanced practitioners in these slow meditative movements. *9 a.m., U-M Cube, between the Union and the SAB. Free. 930–2747.*

★**Meditation: Karma Thegsum Choling.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to sitting (9:30 a.m.) and chanting (10 a.m.) meditation. *9:30 a.m., KTC, 614 Miner (off Miller). Free. 761–7495, 678–7549.*

★**"Looking for God in the Creation of the Universe": Zion Lutheran Church.** *April 29 & May 6, 13, & 20.* All invited to join a group discussion led by Zion Lutheran pastor Barry Ludwig, U-M radiologist Scott Swanson, and U-M researcher Bob Thompson. *9:45–10:45 a.m. Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free admission. 769–2107, 668–6261.*

★**"Sunday Tandem Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Moderate-paced ride, 30–40 miles, to Stockbridge to eat at a German restaurant. Riders on tandem bikes (bicycles for 2) encouraged. *10 a.m. Meet north side of the Aberdeen Bike & Fitness parking lot, 1178 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (213) 828–4483.*

★**28th Annual Show 'n' Shine Car Show: Ypsilanti Area Street Rods.** This annual exhibit contains

around 450 slick street rods, sleek muscle cars, and elegant antique autos in a rainbow of colors. 50s and 60s music spun by DJ Chet Hill. Also, muffler rapping contests, in which parked street rodders stomp on the gas to see whose engine is most deafening. Spark plug hunt for kids. Games, refreshments. Door prizes. Preceded on May 5 by a kickoff party (6–9 p.m.) that concludes with a flame throwing contest. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Riverside Park near Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free; donations appreciated. 485–3136.*

★**"Riverwalk 2007": Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club.** All invited to join a family-oriented 5 or 10 km scenic stroll along the river at your own pace. Followed by refreshments. Rain or shine. *10 a.m.–1 p.m. starting window–4 p.m., Gallup Park Canoe Livery (west side of Huron Pkwy.), 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 649–5024.*

★**Ultimate Pickup Game: H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to a pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Beginners welcome. *Midmorning time TBA, Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★**Silent Vipassana Meditation: Deep Spring Center for Meditation and Spiritual Inquiry.** *Every Sunday.* Meditators of all levels invited for an hour of silent meditation focusing on the breath. While the practice stems from the earliest and purest Buddhist teachings, this form of meditation requires no religious beliefs. Followed by a 30-minute dharma discussion. *10–11:30 a.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entrance on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations accepted. 477–5848.*

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sunday.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. Today's topic: **"Turn the Table on Jealousy."** Also this month: **"Recognizing the Enemy Within"** (May 13), **"Creating Space"** (May 20), and **"On Equal Ground"** (May 27). *10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. Free, but donations accepted. 994–3387.*

★**First Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** *Every Sunday.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: Red Bentz discusses **"The Walled City of Bethlehem."** Also this month: a **potluck** with discussion of future programs (May 13), a group discussion of **"The Help Line and Living Alone"** (May 20), and a First Presbyterian member presents a film on **"The Church Missions"** (May 27). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

29th Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair: Ann Arbor Antiquarian Booksellers Association. More than 40 dealers from 8 states offer old, rare, curious, and fine books, manuscripts, prints, and maps. This popular annual event has established itself as one of the country's top regional antiquarian fairs. Admission charge benefits the U-M Clements Library, which is holding its 1st annual **Book Auction** at 5 p.m. (preview: 1–4:30 p.m.) on May 5 in conjunction with the fair. Auction items include unusual items on Michigan history, modern first editions, Arkham House mysteries, duplicate and out-of-scope material from the Clements collection, and more. A full catalog is available at robhuberauctions.com. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5 donation. 995–1891.*

Artisan Market. *Every Sunday.* Show and sale of fine crafts, jewelry, soaps, furniture, fiber arts, and gift items. Also, live music TBA. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Farmers' Market. Free admission. 665–2009.*

★**"Right and Sustainable Relationship to the Environment": Peaceful Dragon School.** All invited to meditate on this theme. Followed by Q&A. *11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m., 1945 Pauline Blvd. suite B. Free. 741–0695.*

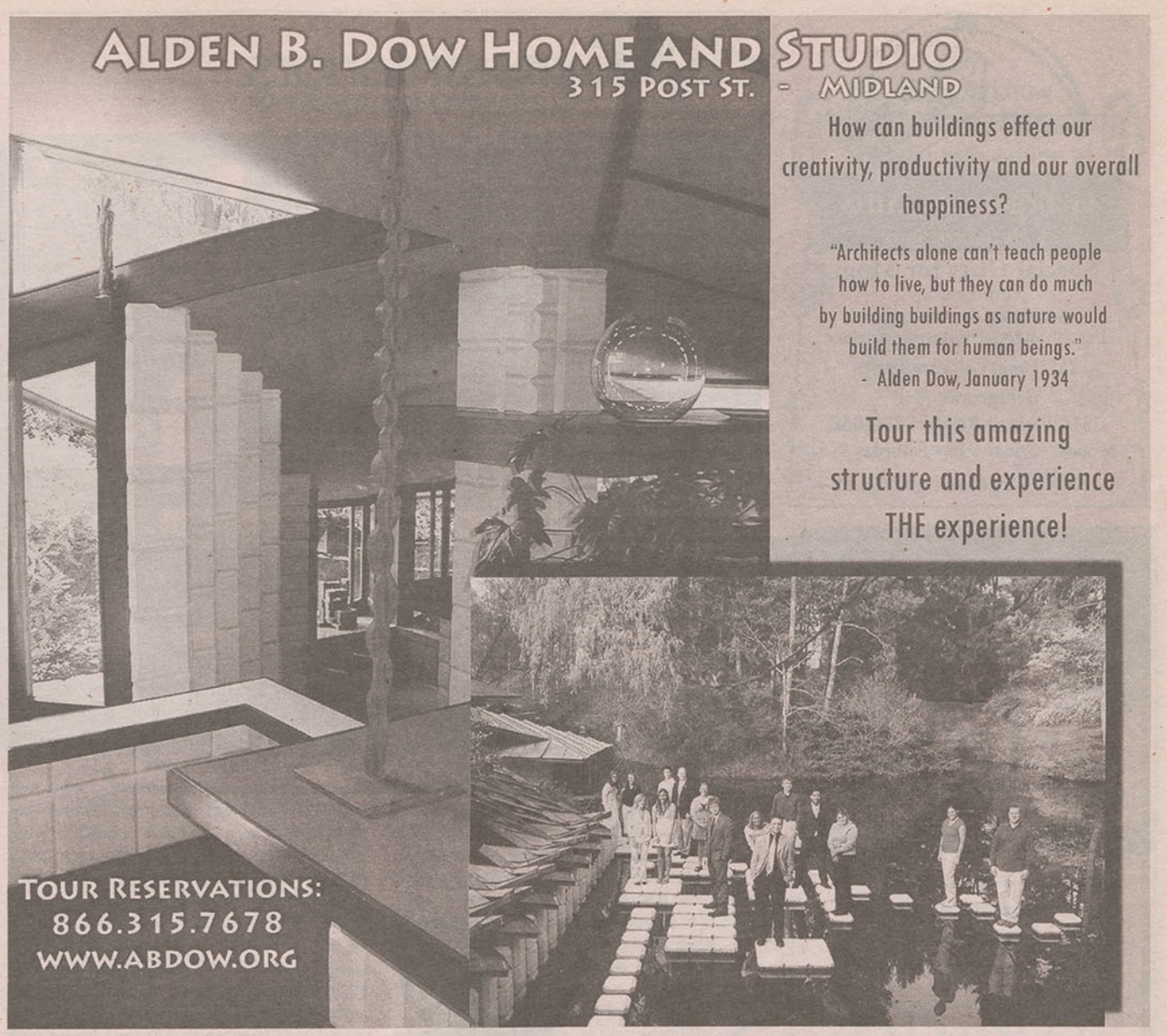
★**Tour: Zingerman's Creamery.** *Every Sunday.* Zingerman's cheesemaker John Loomis leads a tour of the new facility where Zingerman's cheeses are made. *Noon–2 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. Free. 929–0500.*

★**Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Sunday.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Hillside Terrace, 1939 Jackson. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Student Recital: Herb David Guitar Studio.** Herb David studio students of all levels and ages perform works in various styles. "Watch the stars of tomorrow shine today," says David. *12:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 665–8001.*

U-M Softball vs. MSU. *1 p.m., Alumni Field (behind Ray Fisher Stadium), S. State at Hoover. $4 (youths age 12 & under, $2; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

★**Sharon Mills Tours: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** *May 6, 13, & 20.* WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike around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Quartet in A Minor, op. 132	*Ludwig van Beethoven*

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this park on the River Raisin that features a beautiful multicolored stone house, a wooden mill, and a former winery, plus spots for fishing, canoeing, and picnicking. *1–4 p.m., Sharon Mills Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd., Manchester. Free. 971–6337.*

Tour: Kempf House Museum. *May 6, 13, & 20.* Twenty-minute guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, named for the family of German American musicians who occupied it at the turn of the 19th century. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Admission $1 (children under age 12, free). 994–4898.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sunday & Tuesday.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's probably the world's oldest board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

"The Viceroy": Comic Opera Guild. Tom Petiet directs area singers in a concert production of this comic operetta by Victor Herbert, "the father of American popular song," whose charming, lyrical late-19th- and early-20th-century songs have long since passed into popular culture. Part of a Herbert festival whose other 2 productions, *Madcap Duchess* on May 4 and *Miss Dolly Dollars* on May 5, are at Madonna University. *1:30 p.m., U-M Music School Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. $10 in advance or at the door. 973–3264.*

"The Wonders of Wetlands": Waterloo Natural History Association. Michigan United Conservation Corps members display and discuss several interesting animals that inhabit Michigan wetlands. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**"Spring Things of Woods and Wetlands": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** A WCPARC naturalist leads a hike around the park to see wildflowers, birds, frogs, and spring beauty. *2–4, meet at Park Lyndon North, North Territorial Rd. (east of M-52), Lyndon Twp. Free. 971–6337.*

★**"The Memory on the Mirror: Daughters Reflecting on Motherloss": Ann Arbor District Library.** Arbor Hospice BraveHeart Grief Services director Maryjane Bottonari leads a discussion for women of ways to include their mothers in the legacy they create in their own lives. *2–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. *2–3 p.m., Oz's, 1922 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★**"Kerry Tales: Flowers Flourish with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and rollicking fun, with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's (Kerrytown), 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 769–3115.*

★**Talk & Tour: Sunward Cohousing.** *Every Sunday.* A resident gives a short talk about Sunward Cohousing, which consists of condos designed to foster an old-fashioned sense of neighborhood and to preserve open space. Followed by a tour. *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. 930–6425.*

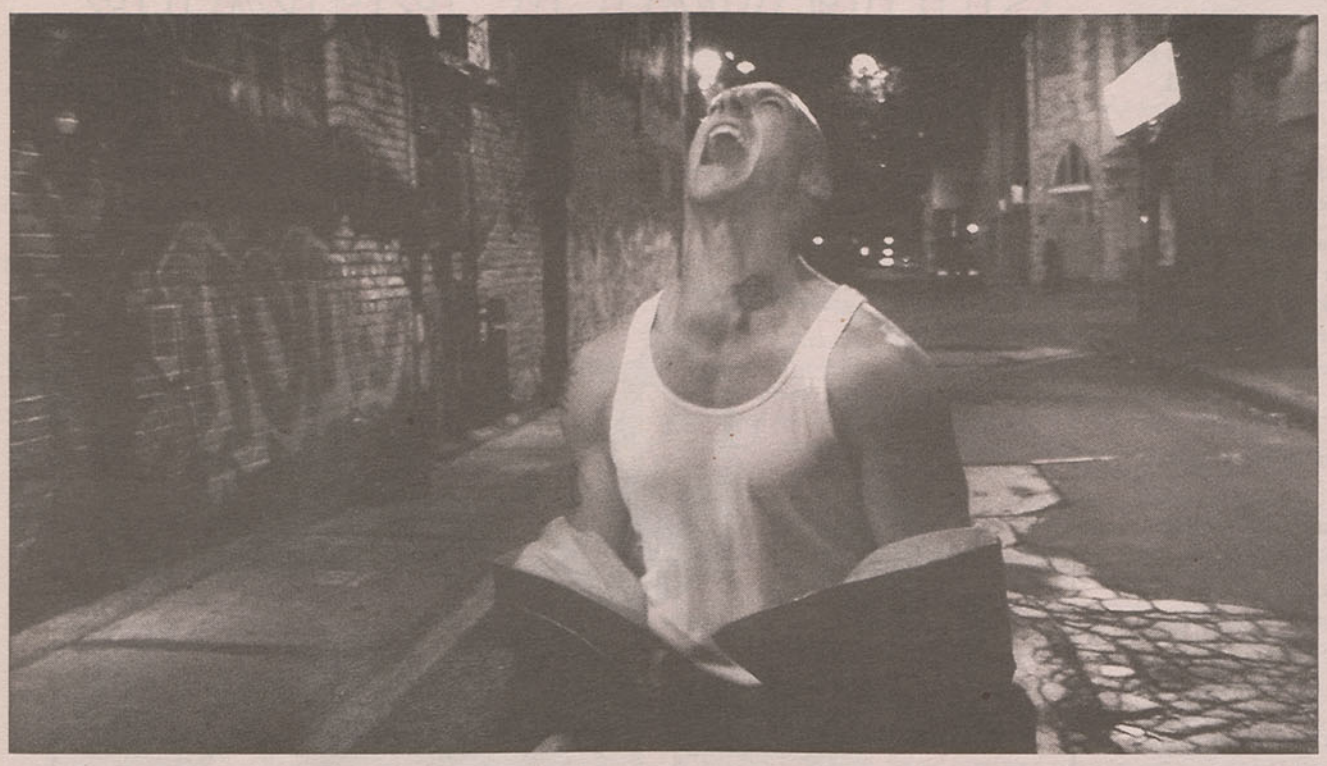
"Twelfth Night": Wild Swan Theater. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor-Motown Hash House Harriers.** *Every Sunday & occasional Saturdays.* The local chapter of an unorthodox running club for people who like to make a game of running. Each runner's task is to follow a trail designed to be confusing. The usual result is that the lead (i.e., fastest) runners run the longest distance, so that runners of varying abilities complete the course in nearly the same time. Each run includes at least one pit stop (with beer & pop hidden along the way) and is followed by a trip to a nearby restaurant. *3 p.m., location TBA. Free. Weekly locations available at a2h3.org.*

★**"End of Life Issues Medical Issues Forum": Temple Beth Emeth.** Panel discussion by U-M deputy general counsel Ed Goldman, U-M nursing professor Linda Strodtman, U-M family medicine professor Phil Rodgers, TBE cantor Annie Rose, and St. Clare's Episcopal Church rector James Rhodenhiser. *3–4:30 p.m. TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665–4744.*



Jewish Film Festival

Human stories

When the annual Jewish Film Festival returns to the Michigan Theater Sunday through Thursday, May 6–10, it will bring movies from more than half a dozen countries. The range of subjects in the nineteen films featured is even greater, encompassing not only a wide variety of themes and issues but also much of the spectrum of human emotions. Two films spotlight opposite poles of that spectrum, *Steel Toes* and *Checking Out*.

In *Steel Toes*, which opens the festival on Sunday, May 6, Danny Dunkelman, a Jewish court-appointed lawyer, is assigned to defend Mike Downey, a Montreal skinhead accused of a brutal murder. Downey has used his steel-toed leather combat boots, standard skinhead uniform, to kick an Indian man to death, after a supposed slight.

Dunkelman greets his imprisoned client with "I don't like skinheads and neo-Nazis. I'm not sure that makes me the best person to argue your case." Downey shoots back disdainfully, "You're a humanist liberal Jew, so you gotta do your best." And there it all is; both men are forced to confront their received stereotypical notions and see each other as the complex human beings they are. When Downey in a chillingly matter-of-fact tone says to Dunkelman, "In an ideal world, I'd have you eliminated," we must, along with Dunkelman, confront the possibility that despite abhorring Downey's methods, we might feel the same way about him. When in the next breath Downey adds, "In this world I need you more than anyone," we also must contemplate the value of men like Dunkelman in our world. Oscar nominee David Strathairn portrayed another morally courageous character, the 1950s broadcaster Edward R. Murrow, in *Good Night and Good Luck*, and here he brilliantly conveys Dunkelman's agonizing inner struggles and ambivalence.

At the other end of the emotional scale is *Checking Out*, shown on Monday, May 7. With a very high punch-lines-per-minute ratio, it features Peter Falk at his comedic best. A good thing, too, since the film is ostensibly about a ninety-year-old who summons his three children home to attend his suicide party. But Falk's Morris Applebaum is no ordinary nonagenarian. Along with his late wife, Vera, he was a Yiddish Theater star who also specialized in Shakespeare. Here he is Prospero conjuring a huge familial Tempest, or Big Fat Jewish Suicide, as his daughter notes.

Checking Out is not all laugh riot. Morris roars with indignation at his car dealer son for selling German automobiles, and even more for quoting *Hamlet* to advertise them. He speaks poignantly of his grief at Vera's death and justifies his planned suicide with "I was an actor. I always knew the end. I didn't live as an audience, not knowing what was coming next."

When his therapist son (Judge Reinhold) complains, "This is serious," Morris responds, "That's why we're joking."

Both these films—and indeed all the other movies in the festival—are about human, rather than exclusively Jewish, stories.

—Sandor Slomovits

★**"Curtis with Comics": Ann Arbor District Library.** Vault of Midnight comic book store owner Curtis Sullivan discusses what's new in the world of comics and graphic novels and raves about his favorites. For kids in grades 9–12. *4–5:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Traditional Thai Pottery": Yourist Pottery.** Screening of Louis Katz's playful, absorbing 1991 video about the handmade pottery industry in 5 small Thai villages. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★**The Vermeer Quartet: Friends of Chamber Music at Pease.** After nearly 4 decades together, this Chicago-based string quartet known for its emotional depth and distinctive warmth is making its farewell tour. The program features Mozart's Quartet in B-flat Major, Janacek's Quartet no. 1, and Beethoven's Quartet in A Minor. "The Vermeer players can melt stones with their introspective playing," notes a *San Francisco Chronicle* critic. *4 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 484–3237.*

Lag B'Omer Picnic: Chabad House. All invited to celebrate the 33rd day of Omer, with a barbecue and picnic treats. *5 p.m., location and cost TBA. 995–3276.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** *Every Sunday.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance said to have originated a millennium ago as a pantomime of war between Moors and Crusaders. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., location TBA. In case of rain, under the Dental School overhang, 1011 North University. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sunday.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

18th Annual Spring Concert: Measure for Measure. South Lyon high school vocal music director Steve Lorenz conducts this lively 90-member local men's chorus in an eclectic program of folk songs, sea chanties, spirituals, and songs in German, Hebrew, and Mongolian, along with music by Edvard Grieg, Thomas Tallis, and Aaron Copland and what an organizer calls "some silliness." Also, performances by Pioneer high school vocal ensembles the **Pioneers** and **Desperate Measures.** *7 p.m., Hill Auditorium. $18 (seniors, $14; students and kids 12 & under, $7) in advance and at the door. 649–SONG.*

Duncan Sheik: The Ark. Pop-folk singer-songwriter who started out playing with Lisa Loeb during his student days at Brown University in the early 90s. He's known for his introspective lyrics, lush arrangements, and hauntingly intimate vocal style. His new CD, *Spring Awakening*, is a musical version of an 1891 German expressionist play by Frank Wedekind that was a pioneering treatment of teenage sexuality. "The soaring, velvet melancholy of Sheik's music . . . provides the perfect musical idiom to articulate the story's teen angst," says *Variety. 7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $22.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sunday except May 27.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. $3. 763–6984.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. *May 6–10. See review, above.* This annual festival of documentary and feature films on Jewish themes opens tonight with ***Steel Toes,*** Mark Adam and David Gow's adaptation of Dow's play about a Jewish lawyer who is pushed to the limit when he agrees to defend a neo-Nazi skinhead charged with murder. Also, at 10 a.m. this morning, a prefestival screening of ***Stolen Summer,*** Pete Jones's film about an 8-year old Catholic boy who makes it his summer project to convert a rabbi's seriously ill son. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $10 (festival pass, $65). 971–0990.*

"May Madness 2007": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 4 Friday. Tonight: an "Adios Milonga" dance party with music by a DJ TBA. Preceded at 2:30 p.m. by a variety of dance lessons. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 8 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation Pfizer Family-Friendly**

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Ann Arbor Observer

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q: Whose responsibility is it to maintain and repair the public sidewalks and walkways?

A: Per City Code, Chapter 49, Section 4:58, all sidewalks within the City shall be kept and maintained in good repair by the owner of the adjacent land.

Q: How do I report a sidewalk that needs repair? How can I check if my sidewalk needs repair?

A: You simply talk with the City's Customer Service Center at **(734) 994-2818**. This call will trigger a request to the Technical Services Unit for a sidewalk inspection. If repairs are needed, the City will notify the property owner by letter of the specific requirements to bring the sidewalk into compliance.

Q: What if the sidewalk damage appears to be caused by tree roots?

A: Please call **(734) 994-2818** to initiate an inspection by a staff person from forestry and/or the Technical Services Unit to see if a problematic root can be removed without endangering the stability and health of the tree. The property owner is still responsible for the sidewalk repair costs.

Q: Why doesn't the City make the repairs and bill the owners?

A: When contractor's perform work for the City there is additional costs for the contractor for Bonding, Insurance and the requirement to pay prevailing wages. Based on our Customer Service Survey we found the average cost for a 4" slab for homeowner's in 2005 was $130. The City cost for a 4" slab in 2005 was at least $170

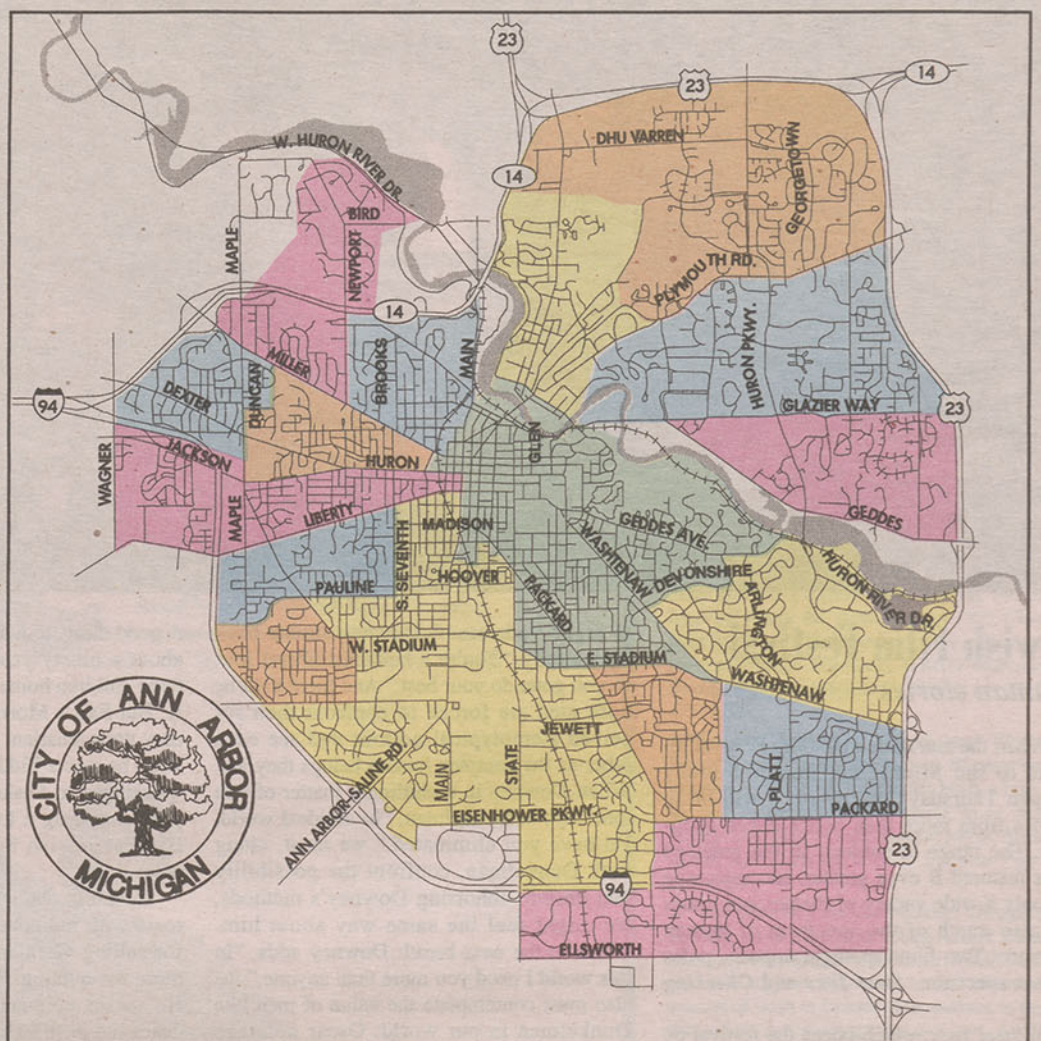
Q: If I don't make the repairs what will the City charge me?

A: The City will make the repairs and pass on all associated costs. In 2005, that would have been a minimum of $170 per slab plus project costs, which were $225 per address.

Q: Why doesn't the City find the contractor for the owner?

A: Based on our Customer Service Survey we have implemented a Contractor Pre-Qualification process. The contractors on the list will be instructed by the City on the procedures of sidewalk repair within the City of Ann Arbor. Contractors will also be rated on their performance by the City and the Customer Service Survey. The ratings will allow us to remove or add contractors based on City and owner experiences.

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
SIDEWALK REPAIR
PROGRAM



SIDEWALK INSPECTION SCHEDULE

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010

The City of Ann Arbor has implemented an annual sidewalk repair program to improve the walk-ability of the sidewalks throughout the City. The program will inspect all sidewalks in accordance with the schedule shown on the map. The annual program does not eliminate the citizen request procedure. If you would like to make an inspection request, you may call (734) 994-2818 or send an e-mail to: Sidewalkrepair@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT PROCEDURES:

1. Property owners or contractors may obtain the specifications and standards for sidewalk repair from the City's **Community Services Area, located on the Sixth Floor of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Avenue.**
2. If you plan to do the repair yourself, contact the Community Services Area to obtain a right-of-way permit to work within the public right of way 48 hours prior to the work; you must submit certified proof of insurance in the amount of $100,000.
3. If you plan to have a contractor do the work, have them obtain a right-of-way permit from the Community Services Area 48 hours prior to starting work. In order to be granted the permit, the contractor must submit a certified proof of public liability insurance in the amount of $500,000.

THREE REASONS TO REPAIR YOUR PUBLIC SIDEWALK:

1. Children, the elderly, and the physically challenged use our sidewalks daily. Poorly maintained sidewalks carry high risks for injury. Your help is appreciated to make sure all residents may travel safely along our sidewalks.
2. City Code (chapters 47 and 49) requires property owners to properly maintain the sidewalks and public walkways adjacent to or abutting their property for use by the public.
3. Properly maintained sidewalks decrease your liability and enhance the overall aesthetic image of our City.

Property owners may verify that a contractor has a permit by calling the Community Services Area at (734) 994-2674 at least one day before work begins. Hint: Multiple property owners working together may receive lower prices from a contractor.

More information is available on the City's website at: www.a2gov.org/sidewalk

Iris DeMent

Gospel music

Her bio states that Iris DeMent started singing when she was three years old, but I bet she started earlier than that. I bet she sang the day, the minute she was born. And I bet she sang a gospel song.

In the liner notes for her 2004 CD *Lifeline*, DeMent writes about gospel music and what it has meant to her in her life:

When I was growing up and things would get too much for my mother, she would run, sometimes in tears, to the upright piano crammed between her and dad's bed and the wall and pound out some old church song.

She always looked up to the sky while she was singing, like somebody was there and she was talking right to them. I wouldn't say I knew what was going on or that any of us kids did. We just knew when mom went to the piano, things were getting serious and you'd better get quiet.

When she finished singing, there was always a calmness about her. I could feel it spilling over on to me. It was a good feeling of knowing everything was going to be okay.

Born in Arkansas and raised in California, DeMent was the youngest of fourteen children in a Christian family where music soothed, teased, thrilled, and inspired. At twenty-five, she started writing songs herself and moved to Nashville, where, in 1992, she released her startlingly eloquent debut album, *Infamous Angel*. Country music radio was never a home to DeMent, but her country-folk songs found their way to thousands of American roots-thirsty listeners across the country and abroad by the noblest means: word of mouth.

In the records she's released since, DeMent has grown and changed as an artist, of course. *Lifeline* is a return to the songs she grew up with: thirteen ancient (or at least ancient-sounding) deeply Christian songs produced with frank reverence for the good churchgoing people who wrote them so long ago. These are songs that poured out of moments of joy, questioning, and hope, and DeMent honors this with a spare, acoustic treatment that lets the beautiful words ride on her wide-open voice.

Gospel music has always presented something of a quandary to me. Through its sheer populist power, it's made the leap from church picnic to rock album and beyond. It's fun. It's undeniable. It's uplifting. But I've always felt a little like I should pay some cosmic rental fee for singing it, since I don't particularly abide by many of its literal messages. If you regard it purely metaphorically, however—and I'm always happy to do so—it fits quite nicely with pretty much any faith you can name. *Faith* of course is the operative word. These are songs that bring comfort to those who sing them, that bring the promise of a better day. Iris DeMent was made to sing them.

Iris DeMent returns to the Ark on Saturday, May 12.

—Whit Hill

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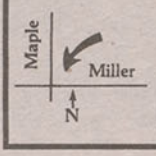

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6 SUNDAY *continued*

Film Series. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (Mike Newell, 2005). The boy wizard takes part in a dangerous competition. FREE. Mich., 1:30 p.m. **"Year of the Dog"** (Mike White, 2007). See 4 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

7 MONDAY

★**"Back Roads Ramble": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow-paced ride, 12–35 miles, along dirt and gravel roads to the Dexter Dairy Queen or to Independence Lake. *9 a.m., meet at 960 Forest Rd. (off Country Club Dr.), Barton Hills. Free. 761–2885, 663–5060.*

★**"Monday Chelsea Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Slow/moderate-paced ride, 35–60 miles, to either the Munith or Stockbridge area. *9 a.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike & Fitness, 1175 S. Main, Chelsea. Free. (517) 285–6830.*

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** *Every Monday.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Monday except May 28.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 663–5907.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Monday except May 28.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, and (except May 21) the **Writing Group** (1–3 p.m.). On May 21 Nutritional Healing Center chiropractor Shannon Dicks discusses **"How Food Can Affect Arthritis and Other Ailments."** Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**Knitting/Crocheting Women's Group: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Monday except May 28.* All senior women age 50 & older invited to join others for knitting/crocheting and fellowship. Bring your own supplies. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Monday except May 28.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Table Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Monday except May 28.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play games like mah-jongg, bridge, chess, tile rummy, and Skip-Bo. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"Introduction to Microsoft Word": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 7 & 11.* A 2-part hands-on introduction to this popular word-processing program. *Note:* This program is also offered at the Pittsfield (May 7 & 9, 7 p.m.) and Northeast (May 8 & 15, 7 p.m.) branches. *7 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate shopping center. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 6 Sunday. Today: ***Blues by the Beach*** (2 p.m.) is Joshua Faudem's 2005 documentary about daily life in an Israeli tavern hit by a suicide bomber. Hebrew, subtitles. ***Checking Out*** (5 p.m.) stars Peter Falk in Jeff Hare's 2006 comedy about a retired stage actor who invites his 3 children to celebrate his 90th birthday in his Manhattan apartment—after which, he promises, he will commit suicide. The 5 p.m. screening begins with Tiffany Shlain's 2005 short ***The Tribe,*** an offbeat history of the Jewish people and the Barbie doll. ***The First Time I Turned Twenty*** (8 p.m.) is Lorraine Levy's 2004 comedy about a Jewish teen girl who breaks into an all-male school jazz band. French, subtitles. The 8 p.m. screening begins with ***Matisyahu: A Short Documentary,*** David Baugnon's 2004 documentary about Matthew Miller, a New York City rapper whose music blends Hasidic, reggae, and beatbox influences. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★**Avis Farms Toastmasters.** *May 7 & 21.* Members give speeches and are critiqued by their audience. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *5:15–7 p.m., 900 Avis Dr., conference room C, off S. State. Free to visitors. Dues: $20 every 6 months (after a onetime nonrefundable fee of $27). For information, call Adrienne at 332–1200.*

★**"Paved Roads Country Roads Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Monday.* Fast-, moderate-, and slow-paced training ride, 18–30 miles, along country roads west of town with an optional start at Pleasant Lake Party Store. Hilly Schneider Road is included in the longer routes. *5:30 p.m.; meet at Royster Clark, 885 Parker Rd. at Pine Cross Lane (just south of Jackson Rd.), Scio Twp. Free. 426–5116.*

★**"Retirement Planning and Preparing Your Finances": U-M Center for the Education of Women.** Talk by local financial planner Rob Oliver. *5:30–7 p.m., CEW, 330 E. Liberty. Free. 998–7080.*

★**"Stoner & Spaz" and "Margaux with an X": Ann Arbor District Library/Neutral Zone Book Club.** All teens in grades 9–12 invited to discuss these 2 young adult novels by **Ron Koertge** (see 19 Saturday listing), a recently retired Pasadena City College English teacher. Participants receive free copies of the books. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL 4th-floor conference room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. 327–8301.*

★**"Volleyball in the Park": Ann Arbor Ski Club.** *Every Monday.* All adults age 21 & older invited to join a volleyball game. All skill levels welcome. Postgame socializing at CUBS' AC. *7 p.m.–dark, Burns Park (just east of the picnic pavilion), corner of Wells & Baldwin. Free. 973–2136.*

★**Huron Valley Toastmasters.** *Every Monday except May 28.* Members give speeches, receive helpful feedback from experienced members, and learn through observing and practicing. A chance to develop confidence in speaking publicly. *Note:* Different Toastmasters chapters meet every Wednesday & Thursday (see listings). *7–9 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Occupational Ed. Bldg., room 158, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors. 972–4619.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Monday except May 28.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

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7 MONDAY *continued*

★"Seed Sharing": Herb Study Group. All invited to bring in seeds to share with others. Bring seeds and a seed planter or pot. Dirt and tools provided. *7 p.m., 125 U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–7600.*

★"North Channel Cruising": Ann Arbor Power Squadron. Screening of this DVD guide to cruising Lake Huron's North Channel in a power boat. *7:15 p.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main. Free. 769–3476.*

★Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society. All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corinne Hillebrandt. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

Dream Group. *Every Monday.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., location TBA. Donation. 662–5925.*

Catie Curtis: The Ark. A highly regarded young singer-songwriter from Maine, who lived in Ann Arbor for a few years in the early 90s, Curtis writes engaging, down-to-earth songs about the pleasures and tragedies of ordinary life. She's also known for her expansive, soaring vocals, her percussive guitar style, and her musical blend of folk, blues, and pop. "Any fool can write a love-gone-wrong song; it takes a real genius to write a love-gone-right one. No urban songwriter does that better than Curtis," says *Boston Globe* critic Scott Alarik in his review of Curtis's new CD *Long Night Moon*. "She sings grippingly about love's better moments: tracing the shadows on a lover's face, and the sweet delights of staying warm on a cold day." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Copeland: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* Lakeland, Florida, indie rock quartet. Opening acts are **As Tall as Lions,** a New York indie ambient-rock quartet, and **Pilot Speed,** a Toronto alternative-rock quartet. *8:30 p.m.–1 a.m., (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Monday.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

Melange Subterranean Bistro. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." *Every Monday.* Dinner (salad, entree, & dessert) followed by screening of a classic movie. Menu items range from $5 to $30. Tonight: ***Pursuit of Happyness*** (Gabriele Muccino, 2006), a drama about a struggling salesman who takes custody of his son as he's poised to begin a life-changing professional endeavor. Will Smith, Jaden Smith. Space limited; reservations recommended. 222–0202. Melange (314 S. Main), 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Year of the Dog"** (Mike White, 2007). See 4 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

8 TUESDAY

★Ann Arbor School Board Elections. Incumbent Randy Friedman is the sole candidate running for one 4-year term on the 7-member nonpartisan Ann Arbor school board. There are no ballot proposals this year. *Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. Applications for absentee ballots are due by 2 p.m. on May 5 at the county clerk's office. For information, call 222–6730.*

"Dwarf and Unusual Conifers": Good Thyme Garden Club. Join club members for a trip to a site near the Pinckney Recreation Area to view unusual conifers. *9 a.m., carpool meeting place TBA. Possible nominal charge (members, free). 332–4791.*

"Life on Man: Our Microbial Friends": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by U-M pathology professor emeritus Gerald Abrams. Open to all age 55 & older. *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $25 (members, $10). Memberships are $15 a year. 998–9351.*

★Group Drumming and Singing: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *May 8 & 22.* All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for singing, drumming, and dancing. Drums provided. *10:30–11 a.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 6 Sunday. Today: ***Sentenced to Marriage*** (2 p.m.) is Anat Zuria's 2004 documentary about 3 young Israeli women who are trapped in their marriages by the religious courts. English & Hebrew, subtitles. ***Paper Dolls*** (5 p.m.) is Tomer Heymann's 2006 documentary about a group of transvestite Filipinos who emigrate to Israel to take care of elderly religious Jewish men. English, Hebrew, & Tagalog; subtitles. ***The First Basket*** (8 p.m.) is David Vyorst's 2007 documentary about Jews and basketball. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★"Bike Lights 101: Build Your Own": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." *May 8 & 27.* Local League of American Bicyclists certified bike instructor Pete Hines presents a 2-part series of talks on commercial bike light systems and how you can build a better—and cheaper—headlight and taillight yourself. *6:30–7:30 p.m. (May 8), Chamber of Commerce, 425 S. Main, suite 103, & 1–3 p.m. (May 27), Great Lakes Cycling & Fitness, 2107 W. Stadium. Free. 214–0100.*

★"Meet and Walk": Washtenaw Wanderers Volkssporting Club. All invited to learn about the club's future walking excursions. Followed by a stroll around Gallup Park. *7–8 p.m., Gallup Park Canoe Livery meeting room (west side of Huron Pkwy.), 3000 Fuller Rd. Free. 649–5024.*

★"Lot of Treasures": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild. Miniauction of club members' fabric works and surplus fabric stockpiles. Proceeds benefit the club. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 425–1326.*

"Understanding Mind": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Tuesday.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7–8:30 p.m., Jewel Heart Buddhist Center, 207 E. Washington. $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

★"Creating a Healthy Home for Kids": People's Food Co-op. Talk by local naturopath Michele Loewe. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main St. Free. Preregistration requested. 994–4589.*

★"Spring Planting, Pruning, and Rose Care": Huron Valley Rose Society. All invited to join a group discussion. Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 424–9321.*

★Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss ***The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl***, Timothy Egan's gripping account of such non-"exodusters" as a woman who watches her newborn die of "dust pneumonia" and a farmer forced to gather tumbleweed to feed his cattle—and then his children. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662–0600.*

★"Sound Advice": Neutral Zone. Detroit native Luis Resto, who's done production work for Eminem, 50 Cent, Patti Smith, Aretha Franklin, and Iggy Pop, discusses and demonstrates his production techniques. Also, Q&A. Preceded by 2 workshops at WCC and the Neutral Zone (registration required). *7:30–9:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 214–9995.*

Michael Penn: The Ark. Pop-rock ballads and cinematic story songs by this veteran L.A. singer-songwriter who is Sean Penn's older brother (and Aimee Mann's husband). "The best songs here suggest an alternate universe where Bob Dylan and George Harrison agreed to collaborate full time," says *Rolling Stone* in its review of Penn's acclaimed *Mr. Hollywood Jr., 1947*, a 2005 CD song cycle of moody love tunes about several interconnected lives, set in 1947 Los Angeles. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

MTF. "Year of the Dog" (Mike White, 2007). See 4 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **WCBN-FM. "Not a Photograph"** (David Kleiler Jr. & Jeff Iwanicki, 2006). Documentary about the resurrection of Mission of Burma, the seminal early-80s postpunk band whose members include Ann Arbor native Roger Miller. FREE admission. 763–3500. Live at PJ's (102 S. First), 9 p.m.

9 WEDNESDAY

★"Famous Jewish Comedians of the Past": Beth Israel Congregation. Talk, interspersed with DVD clips, by Beth Israel rabbi Robert Dobrusin. Bring a dairy lunch; extra refreshments and desserts provided. *Noon–1:15 p.m., Beth Israel Congregation, 2000 Washtenaw. Free. 665–9897.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 6 Sunday. Today: ***Wrestling with Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner*** (2 p.m.) is Freida Lee Mock's documentary about the personal and political life of the Pulitzer Prize–winning playwright. ***The Rape of Europa*** (5 p.m.) is Richard Berge, Bonni Cohen, and Nicole Newnham's 2006 documentary about the history of art during War World II, from Nazi looting and destruction to the effort to return these treasures to their rightful owners. ***Only Human*** (8 p.m.) is Dominic Harari and Teresa Pelegri's 2004 farce about a Spanish Jewish girl who brings her Palestinian fiance home to meet her parents. Spanish, Hebrew, & Arabic; subtitles. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★**"Sporting Flies": Trout Unlimited.** Beginning and experienced fishers invited to try fly casting with personal or club equipment. *6 p.m.–dusk, Riverside Park, Canal St. (off Wall St., behind the Kellogg Eye Center). Free. 433–2661, 222–9776.*

★**Ann Arbor Magic Club.** All amateur and professional magicians invited to an evening of socializing and discussion of the magical arts. *7 p.m., Georgetown Country Club, 1365 King George Blvd. Free. 482–9523.*

★**"Beware of Vista": Arrow Communication Association Amateur Radio Club.** Club president Steve Andre discusses things to watch out for when upgrading to this new Microsoft operating system. Preceded by "ragchewing and socializing." *7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College room BE 182, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free to visitors ($25 annual dues). 930–6564.*

★**"Gentle Detox and Weight Loss": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by local chiropractor Shannon Dicks. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Exercise, Nutrition, and the Brain": Ann Arbor District Library National Library Week.** Talk by local fitness and nutrition counselor Andrew Phelka. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School Rd. & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

"Outrageous Oz: Meet Australian Cuisine with Ari": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of Australian cooking and food culture. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $20. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**"Children Living and Dying with AIDS in South Africa": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by the renowned South African sociologist **Tessa Marcus,** a University of Pretoria family medicine professor. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Jaycees.** All invited to discuss ***The Glass Castle,*** Jeannette Walls's harrowing yet affectionate memoir about being raised by 2 deeply eccentric, sometimes homeless parents. *7–8 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 646–9390.*

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** Retired U-M systems development coordinator Judith Rose leads a discussion of ***That's Not What We Meant to Do,*** Steven Gillon's examination of the unintended consequences of 20th-century social reforms. *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★**Fiction Readers Groups: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of Khaled Hosseini's best-selling first novel, ***The Kite Runner,*** a story of betrayal, guilt, and regret, set in Kabul, revolving around the friendship between the son of a wealthy man and the son of his servant. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Steppin' Out: Civic Does Cinema": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *May 9 & 10.* Curt Waugh leads AACT performers and alumni in a show highlighted by songs from the AACT's upcoming June 7–10 production of *Hair.* The program also includes songs from the movies *Tommy, The Jerk, Three Amigos,* and *Wayne's World.* Proceeds benefit the AACT. *8–10:30 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. Tickets $15 & $25 in advance at the Ann Arbor Civic Theater box office and at the door. 971–2228.*

Brandi Carlile: The Ark. Intimate, infectiously melodic roots-rock by this trio led by Carlile, a young singer-songwriter from rural Washington known for her arrestingly expressive, resonantly supple voice and sweetly melancholy ballads. "Carlile's songs have a spare heartache that reflects her love for old-school country, but she loves new-school mopers like Radiohead and Jeff Buckley just as much," says *Rolling Stone* critic Gillian Telling. Opening act is **The Cary Brothers,** an alternative pop-rock band from L.A. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

MTF. "Year of the Dog" (Mike White, 2007). See 4 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

10 THURSDAY

★**"Even Thursdays": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce.** *May 10 & 24.* All invited to join Chamber of Commerce CEO Jesse Bernstein to discuss local issues. *7–9 a.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs), 422 Detroit St. Free. Pay for whatever food or beverage you buy. 214–0104.*

★**"Advanced Microsoft Word": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 10 & 11.* A 2-part hands-on introduction to such advanced features of this popular word-processing program as tabs, symbols, tables, and mail merge. *Note:* This program is also offered at the West (May 14 & 18, 7 p.m.), Pittsfield (May 14 & 16, 7 p.m.), and Northeast (May 22 & 29, 7 p.m.) branches. *1 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate shopping center, & 1 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Chapter president Nabuko Sakoda leads a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

"Jewish Film Festival": Jewish Community Center. See 6 Sunday. Today: ***Queen of the Mountain*** (2 p.m.) is Martha Goell Lubell's 2005 documentary about the life of her aunt Theresa Goell, a Jewish archaeologist who in 1933 moved to an isolated mountaintop in southwestern Turkey, where she undertook years of pioneering excavations and eventually found a home among the Kurdish community living there. The 2 p.m. screening begins with ***Sister Rose's Passion,*** Oren Jacoby's Oscar-nominated 2004 documentary short about an American Dominican nun who has spent her life trying to eradicate anti-Semitism from the Catholic Church. ***Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*** (5 p.m.) is Marc Rothemund's 2005 drama about the final days of a member of an anti-Nazi resistance group. The 5 p.m. screening begins with the 2006 documentary short ***Raoul Wallenberg: One Person Can Make a Difference. King of Beggars*** (8 p.m.) is Uri Paster's 2006 drama about a lame Jewish bath attendant in 16th-century Russia who stands up against the persecution of Jews and turns a band of beggars and thieves into a fighting machine so fierce that it ends up alongside the Russian army fighting the Poles. Hebrew, subtitles. 2, 5, & 8 p.m.

★**Town Meeting: Megiddo Peace Project.** Veteran local activist Al Haber leads a discussion on the Ann Arbor Vision Quest project, a greenway report, and a report on travels in Israel and Palestine. Refreshments. *7–9 p.m., 310 S. Ashley. Free. 761–7967.*

"Pralus Berger Rendez-Vous": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of a variety of gourmet chocolates from Pralus Berger, a family-owned French chocolate maker that gets its cacao from 18 different countries so that each of its chocolates tastes different in ways that reflects its origin. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $15 in advance, $25 (if available) at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3354.*

Bock Beer: Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about more than 2 dozen bock beers from around the world, including Arbor Brewing's celebrated Terminator Doppelbock, as well as mai bocks, doppelbocks, and weizenbocks from Germany, Norway, and the U.S. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

"Developing Inner Peace: The Path to Nirvana": Vajrayana Buddhist Center. *May 10, 17, 24, & 31.* Talks by Gen Khedrub, the resident teacher of the Vajrayana Buddhist Center in Chicago. Also, a guided meditation and discussion. *7–8:30 p.m., 116 E. Washington, suite 220. $10. (248) 444–4633.*

★**"Growing Native Plants in Your Own Yard": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Native Plant Nursery owner Greg Vaclavek. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***China Mountain Zhang,***

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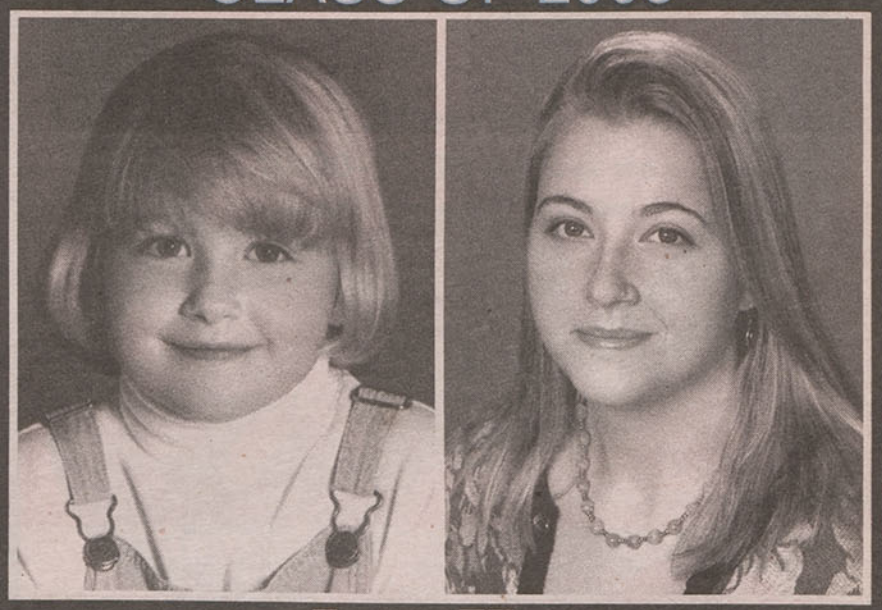

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Animals to love and care for...
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A school where I can be myself.

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10 THURSDAY *continued*

Maureen McHugh's thought-provoking portrait of a cyberpunk future. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 764–2553.*

★**"Beneath the Surface: The Natural History of a Fisherman's Lake": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *In Fisherman* regular contributor **Bruce Carlson** reads from his new book about Ten Mile Lake in Cass County, Minnesota, that mixes natural history, biology, lake dynamics, and fishing tips. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Filling in the Blank": Neutral Zone.** Readings by young writers from the Neutral Zone's Short Story Collective. Light refreshments. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 214–9995.*

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The Secret of Lost Things,*** Sheridan Hay's literary thriller that is a tribute to, or warning about, the obsessive nature of book collecting. Refreshments. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

Daniel Kahn & the Painted Bird: Kerrytown Concert House. Detroit singer-songwriter Kahn performs a dour, spooky brand of cabaret klezmer he calls "verfremdungsklezmer." It mixes the hook-laden, somewhat melancholy fire of traditional klezmer music with dark, at times macabre English lyrics, in often grimly moralistic tales with a gothic sensibility. His band, named for the Jerzy Kozinski novel, includes bassist Michael Tuttle and Swedish drummer Hampus Melin. Opening act is **Breathe Owl Breathe**, the local duo of guitarist and banjoist Micah Middaugh and cellist Andrea Moreno-Beals. They perform acoustic folk-rock set to atmospheric, intricately textured instrumental and vocal landscapes. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Rock en Espanol": The Ark. Rootsy rock 'n' roll and rockabilly featuring a collaboration between **Big Dandy,** frontman of the California rockabilly, country boogie, and western swing band the Fly-Rite Boys, and **Los Straitjackets,** the renowned Nashville-based instrumental rock 'n' roll quartet. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. *May 10–13 & 17–20.* Lynn Lammers directs local actors in Oscar Wilde's sharp-edged 1891 comedy about a Victorian archmoralist. When Lady Windermere suspects that her husband is having an affair, she considers running off with a ne'er-do-well rake. A twist of circumstance rescues the situation in a way that illuminates the true nature of morality. The play is the origin of the famous Wildeism "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $18 (students & seniors, $15; groups of 6 or more, $12 each; Thursday, pay what you can) in advance or at the door. 214–6600.*

"Steppin' Out: Civic Does Cinema": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Karen Rontowski: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 10–12.* Ann Arbor debut of this up-and-coming stand-up comic known for her casually hilarious blend of the commonplace and the absurd in tales about everything from going to the Laundromat to coping with an alligator in her apartment. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

Jewish Community Center. "Jewish Film Festival." See Events listing above. Mich., 2, 5, & 8 p.m.
MTF. "Year of the Dog" (Mike White, 2007). See 4 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

11 FRIDAY

★**Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors.** *May 11, 14–16, & 18 (different locations).* A series of events exploring housing issues for seniors in conjunction with Senior Housing Awareness Week, May 12–20. Also, throughout the week, open houses at area senior housing communities (for detailed schedule, see ad on p. 000). Today: a **"Housing & Living Expo"** features seminars (pre-registration required) on "Senior Housing: From Independent Living to Nursing Home," "A Move to Senior Housing: Why and How It Is Working," "Memory Loss: Making Decisions about Living Arrangements and Care," "Comparing Costs: My Home vs. Senior Housing," and "House Calls: Physicians and Nurse Practitioners." *9:15 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 998–9336.*

★**"150 Years of Chemistry at Michigan": U-M Chemistry Department.** *May 11 & 12.* The chemistry department celebrates its sesquicentennial with two days of lectures and workshops. Today: talks (times TBA) on **"Challenges in Contemporary Chemistry and Medicine"** by Foundation for Applied Molecular Evolution distinguished fellow Steven Benner, University of California chemistry professor Carolyn Bertozzi, MIT chemistry professor Barbara Imperiali, and University of Wisconsin biochemistry professor Laura Kiessling. Followed at 4:45 p.m. by a keynote talk by Nobel laureate **Harold Kroto** on **"Science, Society, and Sustainability."** Also, a banquet (cost TBA; registration required) at 6:30 p.m. *May 12* (time TBA): a lecture on a topic TBA by University of Wisconsin chemistry professor Bassam Shakhashiri. The celebration also includes Saturday workshops ($15 in advance, $25 at the door) for science teachers on education and research methods and on frontier science topics, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. *8 a.m.–6 p.m. (May 11) & 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m. (May 12), 1800 Chemistry, 930 N. University. Free. 615–9852.*

★**The Yiddish Group: Jewish Community Center.** *Postponed from April.* Screening of ***The Shop on Main Street*** (Jan Kadar and Elmar Klos, 1965), a moving, intimate, Oscar-winning melodrama, set during WW II as the Nazis inch closer, about a Slovak man who oversees a tiny button shop run by an elderly Jewish widow. Czech, subtitles. Followed by discussion. All invited. *1:30–3 p.m., JCC Newman Room, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

U-M Baseball vs. Penn State. *May 11 & 13 (single games) and May 12 (doubleheader). 6:30 p.m. (May 11), 4:05 p.m. (May 12), & 1 p.m. (May 13), Ray Fisher Stadium. $5 (youths age 12 & under, $3; U-M students, free). 764–0247.*

★**"An Evening of Chocolate and Fantasy": Nicola's Books.** Michigan science fiction and fantasy writer Sarah Zettel discusses her new fantasy novel ***Sword of the Deceiver,*** the final volume of her Isavalta series. Signing. Also, Ann Arbor chocolatier Tammy Coxen discusses and offers nibbles of chocolates with various percentages of cocoa butter. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Spelling Bee: Family Learning Institute. Three-member teams representing local organizations, nonprofits, and businesses vie for a trophy. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and nonalcoholic beverages included. Proceeds benefit the Family Learning Institute, a local nonprofit devoted to improving reading, writing, and communication skills of local low-income students in grades 4–8. *7 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $50 available in advance only. 995–6816.*

★**"X-Treme Private Documentary: Kazuo Hara + Michael Moore": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** *May 11 & 12 (different locations).* Two days of vintage push-the-envelope documentaries by Kazuo Hara, the Japanese director credited as a major influence by American rogue filmmaker Michael Moore, who participates in the May 12 program. Today: screening of ***Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974,*** Hara's documentary about his abusive former lover, a determined bisexual feminist, that climaxes in childbirth. Followed by a Q&A with Hara. *7 p.m., Lorch Hall Askwith Auditorium, Tappan at Monroe. Free. 764–6307.*

★**"Local Songbird Calls": Garden Club of Ann Arbor.** Slide-illustrated talk by club member Betty Graham. Also, a potluck (bring a dessert or main dish salad to pass, and table service). Refreshments. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 994–0747.*

★**"Books: What's Good This Year?": Older Lesbians Organizing.** All lesbians invited to join a group discussion of favorite books. *7:30 p.m., WRAP office (upstairs), 325 Braun. Free. 482–2996.*

"Hamlet": Young Actors Guild. *May 11–13.* Sue Roe directs local young actors in Shakespeare's masterful tragedy about the tormented prince of Denmark whose need to avenge his father's murder leads to the death of almost everyone close to him. Between its rich, abundant poetry and its explorations of the abyss of human consciousness, the 405-year-old play is recognized as an inescapable theatrical masterpiece. *7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North University. $10 (kids age 11 & under, $8) at the door only. 913–9800.*

★**Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** *May 11 & 25.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *The Threshold of the Spiritual World.*

Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance. Jenny Beer leads English country dancing for experienced dancers, with music by Childgrove. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–7704.*

Robbie Fulks: The Ark. Talented Chicago-based alt-country singer-songwriter whose music is an offbeat yet affecting blend of traditional country, early rock 'n' roll, and new wave 80s pop. The songs on his acclaimed 2006 CD *Georgia Hard* range from the countrypolitan soul of "Leave It to a Loser" and the honky-tonk drive of "Each Time I Cry" to a couple of taut, dark murder ballads, "Coldwater, Tennessee" and "If They Could Only See Me Now." "In his best moments, Fulks sounds like the wiseass bastard son of Roger Miller," says *Rolling Stone*. Fulks performs tonight with his band. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"CabaretFEST: A Tribute to Julie Wilson": Kerrytown Concert House. *May 11 & 12.* Three concerts celebrating "the mother of cabaret" Julie Wilson, a cabaret legend whose beautifully worn contralto and fluid facial expressions register every nuance in her songs, investing even familiar tunes with drama. *A New York Times* critic called one of Wilson's shows "a distillation of a long life that remembers love, mourns loss, and embraces laughter and a fierce will to continue." Tonight **Wilson** performs cabaret songs accompanied by pianist **Christopher Denny.** Opening act is a duo of U-M musical theater alums, **Mike Mosallam with Tara Siesener.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30 (May 11 & May 12 afternoon concert); $20, $30, & $40 (May 12 evening concert). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Pioneer Theater Guild. *May 11, 12, & 18–20.* Phil Walker directs Pioneer students in Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize–winning tragedy about an emotionally fragile southern belle who moves into a squalid New Orleans tenement with her sister and brutish brother-in-law. One of Williams's most famous plays, *Streetcar* offers a definitive treatment of one of his most obsessive themes—the psychological destruction of a character full of self-idealizing pretensions and unable to cope with the realities of life. *8 p.m., Pioneer High School Little Theater, 601 W. Stadium at Main. Tickets $8 (students, seniors, and teachers, $6). 994–2191.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Karen Rontowski: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Mando Diao: The Blind Pig. Swedish pop-rock quintet. Opening acts are **Pop Levi,** an English pop-rock singer-songwriter, and **The Films,** a Denver garage pop-rock quartet. *10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets $15 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, $25 at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Inland Empire" (David Lynch, 2007). *April 11–17.* Dark, surreal movie within a movie about an actress in trouble. Laura Dern, Jeremy Irons. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies "X-Treme Private Documentary: Kazuo Hara + Michael Moore."** *May 11 & 12.* See Events listing above. Lorch, 7 p.m.

12 SATURDAY

★**"Spring Roundup Horse Show": 4-H.** Club members and other youth show their sometimes lavishly decorated horses, demonstrate western and English riding, and compete in exciting gymkhana (speed racing) events, featuring pole bending (like slalom racing) and the cloverleaf (a race with tight turns), beginning in midafternoon (time depending on number of entrants). Proceeds from horse owner entrants benefit 4-H. Refreshments available. *8 a.m.–evening (weather dependent), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free to spectators. 997–1678.*

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Sunday Fun

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bers. *8 a.m.–3 p.m., Huron High School Dome Gym, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free admission. 994–2040.*

★**Restoration Work Day: U-M Nichols Arboretum.** All invited to help Arb director Bob Grese and Arb staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided; bring loppers or pruners if you wish. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 998–9540.*

"Mom to Mom Sale": Mom2MomList. Sale of gently used clothes, indoor & outdoor toys, baby items, kids books, and more. Table rentals available. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., Mitchell Elementary School, 3550 Pittsview. Admission $1. 434–9130.*

32nd Annual Cat Show: Anthony Wayne Cat Fanciers. Hundreds of beautiful puddies ranging from local house pets to exotic and rare purebreds representing over 25 breeds. The cats compete for awards or regional and national points—the kitten competition is particularly adorable. Also, cat toys, shirts, scratching posts, jingle bell collars, cat-related clothing, dishes, mats, decorations, and "anything you can think of," says an organizer. *9 a.m.–6 p.m., U-M Sports Coliseum, Hill at Fifth Ave. Spectators $6 (students & seniors, $4) at the door. 434–8588.*

"5K Run and Walk": Vision Builders. 5 km run and walk, along with a 200 m dash for kids 6 & under and a 1,200 m run for kids ages 7–10. Also, a moonwalk from Jump City and other kids activities. Free postrace picnic. Awards top male and female finishers in various age categories. Entry fee includes T-shirt, along with a ribbon for kids race participants. Proceeds go to Vision Builders, a local nonprofit that provides schools, medical care, clean water, and other basic needs of children in the Himalayan region. *10 a.m. (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.), Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $25 (kids under 12, $15; family, $45). Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). $5 discount if you register before May 1 at getmeregistered.com/visionbuilders5k. 926–0976.*

★**"Hewenes Creek Park Outing": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** All invited to help build trails in this natural area featuring a charming lake and old farm fields reverting to wilderness. *10 a.m., meet at Childs School parking lot, 7300 Bemis (east off Platt Rd. between Textile & Willis rds.), Ypsilanti. Free. 426–5737.*

★**Ann Arbor Mountain Bike Ride: Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** Riders of all levels of ability invited to join a ride, 10–15 miles, showcasing official and unofficial bicycling trails on the north side of town. *10:45 a.m., meet in the Bandemer Park parking lot, Barton Dr. at Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. 214–0100.*

★**"Release the Hounds!": Ann Arbor Canine Social Club.** All invited to meet other dog owners while your dogs romp off-leash in this dog park. Lemonade provided. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., Mill Pond Park, end of W. Bennett St. off N. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Free. 761–8500.*

★**Lynneez Marie: Nicola's Books.** This children's book writer discusses ***Thunderfoot the Elephant,*** her children's book about an elephant who disconsolately leaves the jungle upon learning that his noisy walk irritates the other animals but returns when the remorseful animals realize that friendship is more important than keeping the jungle quiet. Also, signing. *11 a.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Open House: U-M Detroit Observatory. *May 12 & 20.* Docent-guided tours, about 30 minutes long, of the photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–2230.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Saturday & Sunday beginning May 12.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $7 (members and infants free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

"Incredible Edibles Walk": Waterloo Natural History Association. Local wild foods aficionado Tom Jameson leads a hike to learn about edible wild plants available locally and then prepares some wild food dishes to sample. *1:30–3 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5; WNHA members, free). Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

"Plant Studies": Community Farm of Ann Arbor. *Tentative time & date.* All invited to a meditative ses-

sion to observe one plant on the farm. Participants sit around the plant, touch it, smell it, taste bits of it, examine it with field lenses, and listen to it—"If you're really quiet, and really patient, you can hear it metabolize," suggests an organizer. No children 14 or younger. Bring a chair or mat if you like. Proceeds benefit local farmland preservation projects. *2 p.m. (tentative), Community Farm of Ann Arbor, 1525 S. Fletcher Rd. $5. Preregistration required. 475–7451*

"Wildlife Photography": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks Department). Local professional photographers share their techniques and offer tips while snapping shots of the Leslie Science Center's resident birds of prey. *2–4 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $25). Preregistration required. 997–1553.*

Spring Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. *May 12 & 13.* Performance by the school's Youth Orchestra, an ensemble of students from this local school for children and adults. Program TBA. *3 p.m., Michigan Theater. $10 suggested donation. 995–4625.*

★**"Yoga Serves Potluck": Ann Arbor School of Yoga.** All invited to bring a vegetarian dish to share, with recipe and place setting, and swap ideas about a group service project to do together. *6–9 p.m., Ann Arbor School of Yoga, 420 W. Huron. Free. 663–7612.*

Annual Dinner: Washtenaw County Democratic Party. Dinner with a program honoring military veterans and talks by congressman John Dingell and 2006 Democratic Michigan attorney general candidate Amos Williams. *6 p.m., Eagle Crest Marriott, 1275 S. Huron (off I-94 exit 183), Ypsilanti. $85 in advance at washtenawdems.org and at the door. 330–5225.*

Ford Honors Program: University Musical Society. A gala evening featuring dinner and a tribute honoring cellist and humanitarian **Mstislav Rostropovich,** recipient of the 2007 UMS Distinguished Artist Award, who is unable to attend because of illness. Musical program TBA. Proceeds benefit the UMS education programs. *6 p.m., Biomedical Science Research Auditorium, 100 Washtenaw. Tickets $200–$1,000 in advance at Burton Tower and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Kissyface Fashion Faux Pas: Neutral Zone. Detroit grindcore band that's been called "Michigan's grind masters." Opening acts are the Livonia death metal band **A Beautiful Burning,** the Northville/Ann Arbor hardcore-screamo band **Our Tomorrow,** the Charlotte/Jackson hardcore band **For All Those Lost,** the Eastpointe grindcore band **Severnaya Complex,** the Jackson/Durand death metal band **Once We Were Buried,** and the Ann Arbor/Westland experimental grindcore band **Between the Sirens Above.** *6–11 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $10. 214–9995.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited to an indoor beach party with summertime games, a pizza and veggies dinner, and an ice cream sundae bar. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $22 (JCC members, $18). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"Spring Sing": Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. Bonnie Kidd and Shayla Powell direct the group's 2 choirs in a program of sacred classical music, gospel, and American folk music, along with works by Haydn and Copland. *7 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (kids 12 & under and seniors, $5) at the door. 996–4404.*

"X-Treme Private Documentary: Kazuo Hara + Michael Moore": U-M Center for Japanese Studies See 11 Friday. Today: Hara and Moore discuss their filmmaking techniques and philosophies, followed by a screening of ***The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*** (Kazuo Hara, 1987), an unconventional documentary about a iconoclastic WW II veteran who's trying to find out what happened to 3 army friends murdered near the end of the war. Japanese, subtitles. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Pioneer Theater Guild. See 11 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Hamlet": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the 40s through the 80s. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $4. 822–2120.*

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial), Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

"CabaretFEST: A Tribute to Julie Wilson": Kerrytown Concert House. See 11 Friday. Tonight: Wilson and accompanist Denny perform another program of cabaret songs. Opening act is vocalist **Barbara Fasano** and pianist **Eric Comstock.** Also, at 4 p.m. a Mother's Day program of classical, jazz, and cabaret works, with pianist **Jerry DePuit** and local vocalists **Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Monica Swartout-Bebow, Shelley MacMillan, Elizabeth Major, Deanna Relyea, Susan Shipman, Jane Schoonmaker Rodgers,** and **Wendy Bloom.** 4 & 8 p.m.

Iris DeMent: The Ark. *See review, p. 99.* This talented, idiosyncratic country-folk singer-songwriter has won the praise of everyone from Merle Haggard to John Prine. She writes simple, affectingly homespun lyrics about lust, forgiveness, heaven, home, and other fundamentals, and she sings in a warbling, pure soprano that soars and dives with a captivatingly unforced emotional authority. Her 2004 CD *The Way I Should* sets aside her usual rain-washed sound for a more mainstream country approach, with angrier, politically charged songs about contemporary culture, and her new CD, *Lifeline,* is a collection of traditional southern gospel hymns, along with the original "He Reached Down," an adaptation of the parable of the Good Samaritan. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $30 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, and all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Karen Rontowski: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

★**Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers.** *May 12 & 19.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. The observatory's huge, 24-inch McMath telescope is operational, but participants are nevertheless encouraged to bring their own telescopes. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

FILMS

MTF. "Inland Empire" (David Lynch, 2007). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **U-M Center for Japanese Studies "X-Treme Private Documentary: Kazuo Hara + Michael Moore."** See Events listing above. Michigan Theater, 7 p.m.

13 SUNDAY (Mother's Day)

★**Horse Show: Spur of the Moment Club.** A judged amateur riding event for kids and adults, including English, western, and halter riding styles. Also, fun games like **barrel racing.** Many young riders get their start here before moving on to the professional circuits. Lunch available. *8 a.m.–about 7 p.m. (races & games begin around 3 p.m. and last until 6 p.m.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free admission. 429–7615.*

★**"Azalea Metric and Grape Century Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Fast-paced 100-mile and moderate-paced 62-mile (100 km) rides through the rapidly disappearing farm country south and east of Ann Arbor. Experience with rides of 50 miles or more recommended. *9 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 975–6648 (100-mile ride), 761–6253 (62-mile ride).*

★**"Milan Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Slow-paced 35-mile ride to Milan for breakfast. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 761–1147.*

Michigan Vintage Volkswagen Festival: Michigan Vintage Volkswagen Club. This big display of around 400 of every sort of air-cooled VW imaginable features narrated drive-by shows and a swap meet (space rentals, $35). This year's show highlights the VW Karmann Ghia cabriolet. Proceeds benefit the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum. Rain or shine. Preceded at 6 p.m. on May 12 by a banquet ($10) with speakers and a mini parking-lot car show at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum. Proceeds benefit the museum. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Riverside Park, Ypsilanti. $3 (kids 11 & under, free) admission. ($15 in advance and $20 on festival day to enter a car.) (231) 330–0843.*

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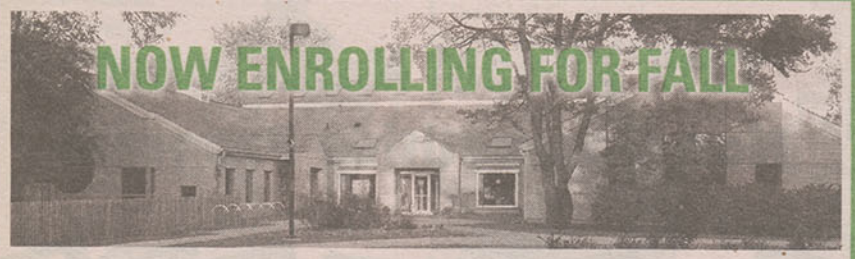

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★**"Global Volunteers": Ann Arbor Unitarian Fellowship.** Talk by Christine Clisham, a local accountant who has done volunteer work in needy foreign countries. *10 a.m., Burns Park Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 971–8638.*

Spring Concerts: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. See 12 Saturday. Today: solo and ensemble recitals by students of all ages. *Noon and 1:30 & 3 p.m., Concordia University Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes. 995–4625.*

Contact Improv. *May 13 & 27.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. *12:30–2:30 p.m., Jazzercise Dance Studio, 1945 South Industrial. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★**Nicholas Lardas: St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church.** This local former architect discusses ***Ikaria Remembered,*** his collection of short stories and poems based on his experiences on the Greek island of Ikaria, Lardas's childhood home over 70 years ago. U-M Greek lecturer Artemis Leontis calls *Ikaria*'s stories "so strong and pure they burn the imagination." *12:45 p.m., St. Nicholas, 3109 Scio Church Rd. Free. 332–8200.*

"Mother's Day Wildflower Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck leads a hike to look for spring wildflowers. *1 p.m., Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter–Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $2. (Park entry fee: $4 per vehicle.) Preregistration required. 426–8211.*

★**"Spring Has Sprung at Springhill": Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy/Superior Land Conservancy.** All invited to join a hike to enjoy spring wildflowers. Preceded at 1:15 p.m. by socializing. Refreshments. *2 p.m., meet at 3401 Berry Rd. (just south of Ford Rd.), Superior Twp. Free. 482–7414.*

★**"Historical Mystery Mother's Day": Aunt Agatha's.** Panel discussion about writing historical mysteries with 4 veteran writers of medieval mysteries—Chicago writer **Margaret Frazer,** Seattle writer **Candace Robb,** California writer **Sharan Newman,** and New York City writer **Alan Gordon**—and **Margit Liesche,** a California writer whose recently published debut mystery ***Lipstick and Lies,*** set in WW II-era Detroit, features a female air force service pilot who helps the FBI infiltrate a German spy ring. Frazer's mysteries feature a 15th-century English nun who is the niece of Geoffrey Chaucer, Robb's a one-eyed 12th-century Welsh marksman who serves as a spy for the archbishop of York, Newman's a wealthy merchant's daughter in 14th-century France, and Gordon's a 13th-century court jester detective named Theophilos. Tea & cookies. *2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

"Mother's Day Concert": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen directs this local volunteer ensemble in a concert highlighted by a performance by clarinetist **Daniel Park,** a Huron High School student who won the band's scholarship competition, in Rossini's Introduction, Theme, and Variations. Also, Strauss's *Vienna Philharmonic Fanfare,* Holst's "Moorside March," the "Mambo" from Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from "West Side Story,"* William Schuman's *George Washington Bridge,* and Robert Russell Bennett's *Suite of Old American Dances. 2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $10 (students & seniors, $5; children 12 & under, free) in advance from band members and at the door. 434–7876.*

"Hamlet": Young Actors Guild. See 11 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

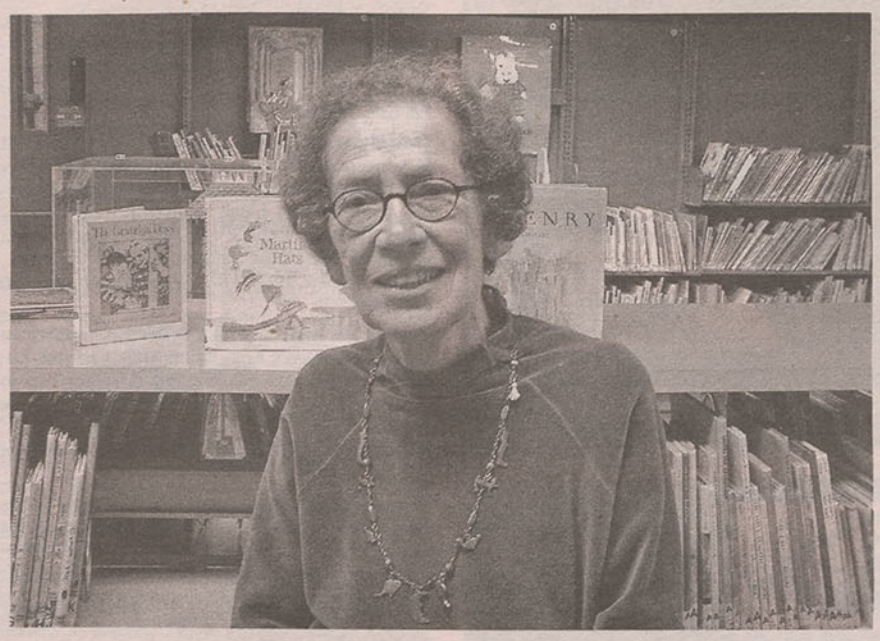
"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

Marian Tanau, Robert deMaine, & Logan Skelton: Kerrytown Concert House. Romanian-born Detroit Symphony Orchestra violinist Tanau, DSO principal cellist deMaine, and U-M piano professor Skelton present a program highlighted by Shos-

Joan Blos

The historical vision



In 1980 Ann Arborite Joan Blos won the prestigious Newbery Medal for her young adult novel *A Gathering of Days*. That story was told in the form of the journal of a thirteen-year-old farm girl from the early 1830s. The journal allowed Blos to be intimate about history and to suggest the major moments of her story directly through the thoughts of her character. It made for a very intriguing read, and was much imitated. Now, after several books for younger readers, Blos returns for only the third time to a larger format written for older children.

Much about *Letters from the Corrugated Castle* is told us in that title and its subtitle, *A Novel about Gold Rush California, 1850–1852*. Blos tells this story through letters, and they allow her much of the same liberty and restriction she found in using the journal/diary format in her earlier book. Eldora, the young woman whom we follow from age thirteen through her fifteenth birthday, is an inveterate letter writer, keeping in touch with a cousin she left behind in Massachusetts when her parents decided to move to California. Although we never see the letters from the cousin, we can assume her questions and a bit of her life from the rich letters Eldora writes. These were tempestuous years, after the war with Mexico, of the Gold Rush and of California statehood, so a good deal of fascinating history makes its way in, but Blos is careful to keep that information a part of the narrative. It feels necessary to Eldora's excitement rather than some kind of instructive intrusion.

The "corrugated castle" of the title refers to a prefabricated metal house—apparently a fairly common construction during the first rapid development of San Francisco—where Eldora finds herself living with a kindly older couple after the presumed death of her parents. The "uncle" is an idealistic New Englander trying to create a school in the West modeled on utopian examples from transcendentalist Massachusetts. Into this house, drawn by the generous spirit of its inhabitants, come miners, journalists, travelers from—yes—Michigan, and children from the neighboring Spanish-speaking parts of the burgeoning city. But Eldora is also reintroduced to the mother she thought had vanished, who takes her off to explore more rural parts of the new state.

And here, as Eldora attempts to create a relationship with the woman from her past while maintaining connections with the people who have supported her for many years, the novel finds its tension and its emotion. As Eldora reveals herself through her letters, we are drawn into her world and learn to respect her intelligence and her generosity. Blos's novel contains a lovely historical vision, but it is also a view of Americans resisting prejudice and learning to live with each other during moments that might otherwise seem governed by greed and its resulting inhumanity. Her triumph is that she can do this and keep us fascinated by the emotions and development of the young woman who tells her story.

Joan Blos reads from *Letters from the Corrugated Castle* at Shaman Drum Bookshop on Wednesday, May 16.

—Keith Taylor

takovich's bleak Piano Trio in E Minor, a memorial to the Holocaust whose 4th movement has been known to move entire audiences to tears. Also, Bernstein's Piano Trio, written when he was a teenager, and Brahms's autumnal Trio no. 1. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5) in advance and at the door. 769–2999.*

★Rainbow Book Club. All invited to discuss ***Tapas on the Ramblas,*** Anthony Bidulka's Russell Quant mystery about a no-nonsense 80-year-old matriarch on a luxury cruise. *4:30–6:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4186.*

★"Ethanol: Climate Crisis Friend or Foe?": Climate Crisis Action Washtenaw. Talk by local physicist John Fritz. *7 p.m., Quest Martial Arts, 2111 Packard. Free. 332–1800.*

Luke Sayers & Mark Iannace Band: The Ark. The former bassist for the Ferndale folk-rock band Tangerine Trousers, Sayers has emerged in his own right as a talented singer-songwriter whose music draws on blues, jazz, country, and folk to create contemporary songs with a sharp emotional bite. He's now teamed up with Iannace, an award-winning Detroit singer-guitarist who also provides rich, resonant vocal harmonies. Their band includes 2 other former Tangerine Trousers, guitarist Pat Shanley and drummer Michael Hacala. Tonight the band celebrates the release of its new CD, *Long Way Back*. If you bring your mother to the show, she gets a free copy of the CD. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Inland Empire" (David Lynch, 2007). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

14 MONDAY

★Dolph Park Bird Walk: Ann Arbor Natural Areas Preservation Division. City ornithologist Dea Armstrong and Washtenaw Audubon Society members Ellie Shappirio and Karen Markey lead a morning walk to explore the park's wide variety of habitats and to look for waterthrush and other spring migrants. Bring binoculars if you have them. *7:30 a.m., Dolph Park, meet at the parking lot on Wagner Rd. between Jackson & Liberty. Free. 996–3266.*

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. See 11 Friday. Today: **"Funds, Services, and Supports Following the Person,"** a series of talks on serving the needs of seniors establishing new living arrangements. Refreshments. *Noon–4 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Senior Health Bldg., 5361 McAuley Dr. off Huron River Dr. Free. 998–9336.*

Social Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *May 14 & 28.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:45–3:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★Auditions: Chelsea Area Players. *May 14 & 15.* All invited to try out for a part in a summer production of *The Sound of Music. 7–9 p.m., South Meadows Elementary Gym, 335 Pierce St., Chelsea. Free. 475–8713.*

★The Barony of Cynnabar. *Every Monday except May 7.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism to work on re-creating different aspects of medieval culture, including combat, dancing, singing, clothing, and many other arts & crafts. *7 p.m., 1311 EECS, 1301 Beal, North Campus. Free. Information at cynnabar.org.*

★"How to Overcome Stage Fright and Speak in Front of an Audience": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by local psychologist and musician Julie Jaffee Nagel. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"The Lincoln Assassination and Defending Dr. Mudd": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table. Talk by Thomas Mudd, the great-great-grandson of Samuel Mudd, the doctor who set John Wilkes Booth's broken leg after the Lincoln assassination but neglected immediately to inform authorities of Booth's whereabouts—for which the lackadaisical doctor went to jail. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Free. 930–0617.*

Morrissey: Live Nation. The frontman of the seminal 80s indie rock band the Smiths, Morrissey is a veteran L.A.-based British singer-songwriter whose songs, which range from introspective brooding on romantic and spiritual themes to caustic social observation, are known for their blend of incisive Wildean wit with an uncompromisingly bleak point of view. His most recent CD, *Ringleader of the Tormentors,* features a heavier, thicker guitar-driven rock sound than his earlier work. Opening act is **Kristeenyoung,** a New York City piano-and-drums rock 'n' roll duo. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $36.50–$75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

Peter Evans & Dave Reminick: Kerrytown Concert House. New York-based trumpeter Evans performs improvised solos on piccolo trumpet. One critic says, "Evans adapts the familiar [Evan] Parkerian extended techniques of circular breathing, split tones and multiphonics to a degree that the surname-first name similarity no longer seems simply a coincidence." Followed by duo improvisations with Chicago-based saxophonist Reminick, a U-M grad. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

FILMS

Melange. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." See 7 Monday. Tonight: ***Blood Diamond*** (Edward Zwick, 2006), a thriller about a fisherman, a smuggler, and a syndicate of businessmen who match wits over the possession of a priceless diamond. Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Inland Empire"** (David Lynch, 2007). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

15 TUESDAY

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. See 11 Friday. Today: **"Assisted**

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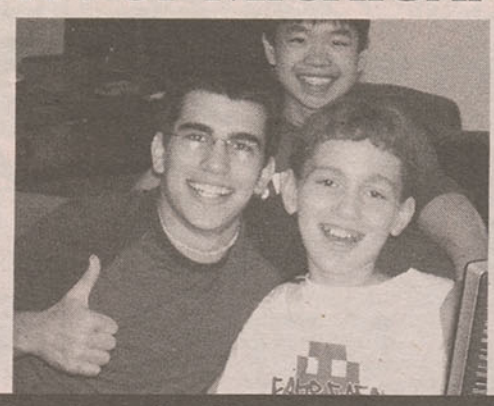

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Sorry, no telephone registration.
Skates are available for all classes at NO charge

15 TUESDAY *continued*

Living: Tools for Decision Making." *10:30 a.m.–noon, Chelsea Retirement Center, 805 W. Middle St., Chelsea. Free. 998–9339.*

★"In the Fiddler's House": Temple Beth Emeth. Screening of this 1995 documentary that depicts virtuoso violinist Itzhak Perlman exploring klezmer music from New York to Krakow. *1–3 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665–4744.*

"Michigan's Culinary Heritage": Busch's. U-M MFit instructor Rebecca Miller discusses and shows how to prepare a meal using Michigan foods, including planked Great Lakes whitefish, Calder Farms butter, Leelanau Cellars wine, and a pasta made in Whitmore Lake. Taste samples. Raffle. *6–7:30 p.m., Busch's, 2240 S. Main. $10. Preregistration required. 214–8394.*

"Saying Yes and No with Confidence": American Business Women's Association Maia Chapter. Local life coach Laura MacKimmie discusses how to set and enforce guilt-free personal boundaries. The program begins with networking and dinner. *6 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $15. Preregistration required. 429–8585.*

"The Ascension: A Guided Tour Through Scripture": Ave Maria Founders. Talk by Missions for Renewal Ministries director Peter Herbeck. The program begins with socializing. *6:30 p.m., Domino's Farms lobby H level 1, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Dr. (off Earhart Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.). $10 requested donation. 761–6661.*

SpiritSisters Women's Circle. All women invited to discuss spirituality, relationships, empowerment, metaphysics, and healing. Short meditation session. Bring divination tools, if you like. *7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $3. 741–0478.*

★"Chronic Bowel and Digestive Problems": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local nutritionist Judy Stone. *7–8:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★"How to Shape Personal and Family-Based Stories": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by **Donald Davis,** a very popular storyteller from North Carolina whose stories include traditional mountain lore and contemporary tales about his neighbors and kin. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★"A Wop Bop A Loo Mop Alop Bam Boom: The Life and Music of Little Richard": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by local music expert Jim Leonard. In conjunction with Little Richard's May 19 show at the Michigan Theater (see listing). *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★Writers Reading at Sweetwaters. Reading by Center for Creative Studies (Detroit) English teacher **Edward Morin,** a widely published local poet whose books include *Labor Day at Walden Pond,* a collection of poems about the daily experiences of white-collar, middle-class Americans, and *The Red Azalea: Chinese Poetry since the Cultural Revolution,* a collection of Chinese poems he cotranslated with Guizhou (China) University English professor Dennis Ding. Followed by open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

★Holly Black & Cassandra Clare: Arborland Borders. Readings by these 2 fiction writers. Massachusetts children's fantasy writer Black reads from ***Ironside: A Modern Faery's Tale,*** her tale about a would-be king who sends his would-be sweetie on a quest to find a deceitful fairy, and Clare, a notorious Harry Potter fan, reads from ***City of Bones,*** her fantasy about a 15-year-old girl who witnesses a murder. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★"American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Wilderness": Huron Valley Sierra Club. Slide-illustrated talk by Southwestern Utah Wilderness Alliance representative Clayton Daughenbaugh. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 480–7751.*

Back of the Moon and Frigg: The Ark. Double bill. Back of the Moon is a traditional Scottish band that features superb 3-part vocal harmonies and a richly textured sound that blends a frontline of Scottish border pipes and fiddle with the intimate pairing of whistle and flute and a distinctive guitar and piano rhythm section. Frigg is a young 7-piece acoustic ensemble that plays traditional Nordic music, with American Appalachian and country accents. Its lineup includes 2 sons and a daughter from the most famous Finnish fiddle family and 2 brothers from a renowned Norwegian fiddle clan. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Inland Empire" (David Lynch, 2007). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

16 WEDNESDAY

"The Morning Edition": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce. This popular monthly program features a buffet breakfast and a series of 5-minute updates from local business and community leaders. Hosted by Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins. Speakers: Esperion Therapeutics (Pfizer) director (and Lipitor codiscoverer) **Roger Newton,** Humane Society of Huron Valley executive director **Tanya Hilgendorf,** Artisan Market manager **Samantha Misiak,** Ann Arbor state representative **Rebekah Warren,** and a Yankee Air Museum representative TBA. Video replays posted at annarborchamber.org. *7–8:45 a.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $25 (members, $15). Preregistration requested. 214–0104.*

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. See 11 Friday. Today: **"Supporting Cultural and Spiritual Expression in Senior Housing: The Jewish Family Services Elderlink Model."** *10:30 a.m.–noon, Sunrise Assisted Living, 1901 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9336.*

★Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center. All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA. *1–3 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

Arie Lipsky and Friends: Jewish Community Center Matinee Musicale Series. All seniors invited to a recital by an Ann Arbor Symphony artistic director Arie Lipsky and an AASO brass ensemble led by trombonist Scott Hartley in a program of vintage Broadway, jazz, and swing favorites. *1:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $7. 971–0990.*

★"Make Your Own Poketo-Style Wallet": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 6–12 invited to make a paper wallet, laminate it, and decorate it with your own or the library's cutout graphics. Materials provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★"Ride of Silence": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society/Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." All bicyclists invited to join a silent procession to honor people who have been killed or injured on public roadways. *6:45 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Summit. Free. 453–3481, 214–0100.*

★"Eating Chocolate, Drinking Coffee: Connecting to the Deepest Sense of Your Being": Whole Foods Market. Talk by local acupuncturist Gary Merel. *7–9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

"Eclipsing Europe? Olive Oils and Vinegars from the Rest of the World": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff discuss and offer taste samples of olive oils and vinegars from China, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, and the U.S. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $20. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★Joan Blos: Shaman Drum Bookshop. *See review, p. 107.* This Newbery Medal and American Book Award-winning local novelist reads from ***Letters from a Corrugated Castle: A Novel of Gold Rush California, 1850–1852,*** the last in her trilogy of young adult historical novels set in 19th-century California. It's the story, told in letters, of a 13-year-old orphan girl who recently moved with her aunt and uncle from New Bedford, Massachusetts, to San Francisco, where she is thrust into several contrasting milieus and learns that her mother may still be alive. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★Orquestra la Inspiracion: Neutral Zone Weapons of Musical Diversity Series. Osvaldo Rivera leads this acclaimed 10-piece Detroit band whose sizzling performances of salsa, merengue, cumbia, and Latin jazz incorporate Yoruba, Congolese, and Dahomean elements. *7–11 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. Free. 214–9995.*

★"Hawk Identification Made Easy": Washtenaw Audubon Society. Slide-illustrated talk by Monroe County Community College biology professor Bob Pettit, former chair of the Hawk Migration Association of America. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

Amber Pacific: The Blind Pig. *All ages admitted.* Seattle pop-punk quartet Opening acts are the Orange County, California, soul-inflected pop-rock band **Melee,** the Cranston, Rhode Island, rock band **Monty Are I,** and **Powerspace,** a Chicago pop-rock band. *7:30–10 p.m., (doors open at 7 p.m.), The Blind Pig,*

Local classical Indian dancer Madhavi Marcia Mai leads her youth and adult student dancers in a program of south Indian classical dance at the Arthur Miller Theatre May 20.

208 S. First. Tickets $12 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.

Wishing Chair: The Ark. Lexington, Kentucky-based duo of pop-folk singer-songwriter and guitarist Kiya Heartwood and multi-instrumentalist Miriam Davidson that's known for its spellbinding storytelling and breathtaking vocal harmonies. The material on the duo's new CD, *Underdog*, range from an antiwar Civil War song and a broadside directed at the Bush Administration to a defiant celebration of Heartwood and Davidson's own wedding. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $12.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Boston International Comedy Festival Auditions": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Several of Detroit's best stand-up comics vie for an invitation to this prestigious showcase of comic talent held in Boston in September. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Inland Empire" (David Lynch, 2007). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

17 THURSDAY

"Senior Spring Scramble": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. Golfers 55 years old and older invited to this 18-hole scramble. 1st place trophy, prizes. Lunch included. *9 a.m., Pierce Lake Golf Course, 1175 S. Main St., Chelsea. $120/foursome. 971–6337.*

★**"Excel Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 17 & 18.* 2-part introduction to the basics of using a worksheet. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**22nd Annual Ann Arbor Springtime Invitational Figure Skating Championship: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** *May 17–20.* Over 800 skaters ages 6 to adult from as far away as Colorado and Minnesota compete in solo, pairs, couples, and ice dancing categories in this USFSA-sanctioned competition. In a schedule change this year, the exciting finals are spread out over all 4 days, mostly toward the end of each day's competitions. *10 a.m.–9 p.m. (May 17), 8 a.m.–9 p.m. (May 18–19), & 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (May 20), Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 662–3925.*

★**"Share a Story": Briarwood Mall.** A PBS representative TBA reads a story. Also, coloring and a snack. *11 a.m., Briarwood Sears court. Free. 769–9610.*

★**"Plant Exchange": International Neighbors.** All area women invited to bring plants to exchange. Master gardener Carol Brodbeck offers gardening tips. International Neighbors is a 48-year-old group of local women organized to welcome women from other countries during their stays in Ann Arbor. Nursery care provided for preschoolers; transportation can be arranged. Refreshments; attendees may bring a snack from their tradition to share. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 429–7445.*

★**"Domestic Violence": Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.** Local attorney Karen Field discusses the complicated, often overwhelming legal implications of domestic violence. *6–8 p.m., Women's Center, 2425 W. Stadium Blvd. Free. 973–6779.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

"Chocolate 101": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's chocolatiers discuss and offer taste samples of various chocolates from cocoa butter to single-estate chocolates. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's, 422 Detroit St. $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Space limited; reservations recommended. 663–3400.*

★**"Genealogy": Ann Arbor Community Center.** Talk by a Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County member TBA. Youths and teens (accompanied by an adult) welcome. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main St. Free. 662–1099.*

★**"Animanga Club for Teens": Ann Arbor District Library.** All anime and manga fans in grades 6–12 are invited to share their enthusiasm for these Japanese art forms, do some crafts, and discuss Nobuhiro Watsuki's samurai manga *Rurouni Kenshin* and watch episodes of the anime TV show based on it. Free Pocky, a Japanese novelty snack popular with anime fans. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Third Thursday Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss ***Black Powder, White Smoke,*** Whitmore Lake detective and western writer Loren Estleman's tale of 2 fugitives from justice and the men trying to find them. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

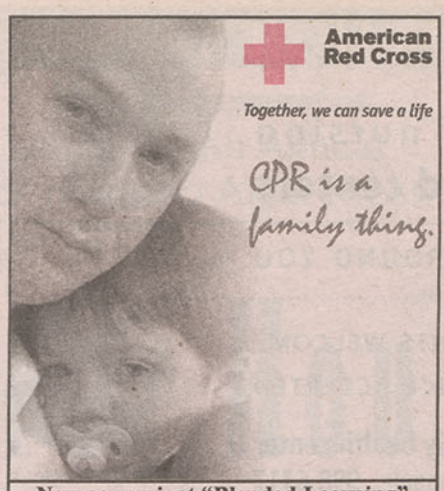
★**2007 Ann Arbor Book Festival.** *May 17–20 (different locations).* Ann Arbor celebrates its love affair with books with a 4-day festival that kicks off today with a family-oriented program that includes appearances by the **Chenille Sisters,** who sing **"I Love It When You Read to Me,"** and local children's book writer **Cynthia Furlong Reynolds,** who reads from her new book. Also, talks by representatives from the local literacy groups, Reach Out and Read and Washtenaw Literacy. The festival also includes an opening reception at the Ann Arbor District Library on May 18, a street fair on May 19, and a family-oriented program in the U-M Modern Languages Bldg. on May 20 (see listings). Also, a **Language & Literacy Symposium** ($10 by reservation at 994–8100) at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District on May 17, 4:30–8 p.m., and a **Writer's Conference** ($100 in advance only at aabookfestival.org) on the U-M campus, May 18, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Also, in conjunction with the festival, a **scavenger hunt** to bookstores, libraries, and fairy door establishments to get a pass stamp to enter in a drawing for prizes awarded on May 19. *Note:* A complete, updated schedule of events is available at aabookfestival.org. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Main at William. Free. 369–3366.*

★**"Excavations in the Middle Woodland and Late Prehistoric Sias East Site, Midland, Michigan": Michigan Archaeological Society.** Talk by U-M paleontology researcher Scott Beld. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum paleontology classroom, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 995–8806.*

★**"Sufi Healing, Meditations, & Whirling": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers.** A program of rumi music, silent meditation, and open whirling. *7:30 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. Free. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

"Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me": WEMU. Live taping of this NPR quiz show, hosted by **Peter Sagal** and veteran NPR morning news anchor **Carl Kasell,** in which quizzes based on the news of the week function as a pretext for irreverently humorous riffs on everything from politics to pop culture. Sprinkled with Sagal's puckish comments and Kasell's jovial asides, the show features quirky quizzes with preselected listeners, who compete for "the most coveted prize in public radio," Kasell's recorded voice on their telephone answering machine. Some of the quizzes involve the participation of a revolving trio of resident pundits, who conclude the show with a fast-paced competition against each other. Tonight's taping, which is broadcast nationwide on May 19, features a panel of **Adam Felber, Kyrie O'Connor,** and **Charlie Pierce.** Also, a celebrity guest TBA is quizzed on behalf of a listener. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Michigan Theater. Tickets $20 & $35 in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets and at the door. Phone charges: 763–TKTS. Information: 487–2229.*

"Stone Soup": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. *May 17–20.* Anthony Heaphy directs Karen Boettcher-Tate's dramatic version of the traditional fable about neighbors who learn to come together and share what little they have for a greater common good. Cast: Sarah and Maggie Hopp, Aaron Willbanks, Alina



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RNCS, MSN, FNP, Director

not pictured:
Jody Lori RN, MSN, CNM
Michelle O'Grady RN, MSN, CNM

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National Emergency Medical Services Week
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2007 Professional Achievement Awards

— honor outstanding performance, including quality of work, contributions beyond the job description and team effort.

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Ann Beach	Steve Darga	Dennis Hoffman	Kirsten Miller	Mark Sherwood
Larry Beevers	William Delong	Mike Hurley	Andy Miller	Charlie Spare
Luke Bowen	Joe DePinto	Randy Jackson	Valerie Mitchell	James Stengel
Dave Bowman	Lynn Eggleton	Scott Jeffrey	Dan Neil	Donna Vallejo
Tom Bugbee	Erik Epskamp	Mike Jones	Ben Oliver	Christa Van Horn
Mike Caryl	Rob Foster	Nisha Junnare	Marty Overholser	Steve Vaujin
Layne Caskey	Kevin Freeman	Andy King	Shalunda Phillips	Brian Walls
Steve Champagne	Justin Giersdorf	Vikki Kleiner	Tom Pitt	Emily Ward
Michelle Cialkowski	Debbie Grajewski	Jason Lake	Dawn Richards	Vince Waryas
Jill Clouse	Megan Hall	Carla Lee	Abby Rife	Marge Watson
Kristen Collins	Jeff Hannah	Bob Liskiewicz	Kathy Roeser	Tracy Woodard
David Comfort	Jim Hannah	David Llewellyn	Mark Roeser	Gideon Yeager
Camille Conklin	Jerry Harrington	Ed Mannlein	Sherri Roman	Julie Yuhas
Rose Cox	David Hendon	Eric Marshall	Tim Sabados	Nanette Zavala

2006-2007 Certificate of Merit Awards

— honor a particularly good job on a specific scene or project.

Derryl Balcolm	Jim Hannah	Vikki Kleiner	Terri Pappas	Emily Ward
Ann Beach	Dave Hendon	Keith Kusterer	Tom Pitt	Andrea Watson
Larry Beevers	Sara Hughes	Jason Lake	Abby Rife	Tom Whitaker
Dan Blaskiewicz	Mike Hurley	Heather Lancaster	Margaret Shedlock	
Steve Champagne	Sean Jenkins	Rick Martin	Jeff Shoemaker	
Russ Comfort	Adam Kasten	Dan Neil	Jim Stevens	
Nicole Daugherty	DeShandra Kenyon	Josh Nieto	Tiffany Tscherne	

2007 Safe Driving Awards

— honor those who have maintained an exceptionally safe driving record.

Tatiana Anthony	Daniel Harton	Tom Mackey	Minor Rodriguez	Frank Tscherne
Rachel Brunelle	Chris Hoffman	Wendell Mason	Chuck Rork	Joel Underwood
Ernie Cameron	Eric Hufnagel	Geoff Mathieson	Nicole Sitek	Tim Waters
Steve Champagne	Rick Johnson	Mwamba Mwila	Graham Smith	Leslie Webster
Ali Gabriel	Vikki Kleiner	Shalunda Phillips	James Stumpf	Diane Wentland
Christina Gomez	Ben LaBounty	Shawn Raus	Ed Swaner	Corey Winters
Megan Hall	Kenneth Landstrom	Laura Roberts	Steven Theil	Julie Yuhas

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17 THURSDAY *continued*

Frye, Lena Mitchell, Graham Taylor, Joe Brabenec, El Berg, Celeste Arruda, Thomas Donahue, Sabra Satz-Kojis, Sofia Kromis, Zaria Jones, Billy Reece, Ryan Mull, Mikala Cooper, Victor Cooke, and Richard Graham. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Liberal Arts Bldg. College Theater, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $5 in advance or at the door. 971–2228.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Callers Robin Warner and Peter Baker with live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded at 3–6 p.m. by a free jam for all musicians. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–8863.*

The Old Haunts: Neutral Zone Weapons of Musical Diversity Series. Olympia, Washington, punk band that's showcasing its new CD *Fuel on Fire*. Opening act is the Detroit/Ann Arbor experimental no-wave band **Bad Thoughts.** *8–11 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $5 suggested donation. 214–9995.*

Duke Tumatoe & His Power Trio: The Ark. Fiery R&B band from Mishawaka, Indiana, led by vocalist Tumatoe, an old-fashioned growler with a rambunctious sense of humor. A regular headliner at Rick's throughout the 80s and early 90s, Tumatoe recently released a new CD, *You've Got the Problem. 8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Kate McGarry: The Firefly Club. Critically acclaimed New York City jazz vocalist known for her elastic contralto voice, inventive phrasing, and repertoire featuring a tasty blend of standards and spiritually oriented originals. McGarry has released 3 CDs on the Palmetto label, including the brand-new *The Target*. She is accompanied by her husband, guitarist Keith Ganz. *8 & 10 p.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $15 at the door only. 665–9090.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jim McCue: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 17–19.* This observational humorist from Chicago is known for his quick-witted observations of the absurdities of family life, traveling, professional sports, and other aspects of everyday life, along with deft improv skills that invite audience participation and keep his audiences off balance. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday early show is a nonsmoking show. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Inland Empire" (David Lynch, 2007). See 11 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

18 FRIDAY

★Bike to Work Day Ride and Rally: Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." All invited to join one of several bike convoys to ride to City Hall for a rally hosted by mayor John Hieftje with free Zingerman's coffee & bagels. Drawings. Giveaways. *7:30 a.m., departure locations TBA at getdowntown.org. Free. 214–0100.*

Garage Sale: American Association of University Women. *May 18 & 19.* Housewares, doodads, tchotchkes, and a few oddments. *8 a.m.–4 p.m., 1528 Greenview. Free admission. 320–0146.*

★"75th Anniversary Tent Sale": Ann Arbor Thrift Shop. *May 18 & 19.* This local nonprofit, which raises money for the needy by selling donated merchandise, celebrates its 75th anniversary under a big tent with a half-price sale of merchandise donated for the occasion. Also, on May 18 only, Lucy Anne Lance hosts a live WAAM Talk Radio 1600 broadcast with refreshments and prize drawings. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Thrift Shop parking lot, 3530 Washtenaw across from Arborland. Free. 662–6771.*

★Senior Housing Awareness Week: Housing Bureau for Seniors. See 11 Friday. Today: **"Alternatives to Nursing Home Care."** *10:30–11:30 a.m., Brookhaven Manor Retirement Community, 401 W. Oakbrook (between S. Main & Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. north of Eisenhower). Free. 998–9336.*

★Gallup Park Bird Walk: Ann Arbor Parks Department. City ornithologist Dea Armstrong leads an evening walk to look for birds in Gallup Park and the Furstenberg Nature Area. Bring binoculars if you have them. *6–8 p.m., meet at the paddleboat dock near the Gallup Park canoe livery, 3000 Fuller Rd. (west side of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 996–3266.*

Family Shabbat Dinner: Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center. Kids age 5 & under invited with their families for dinner, with a program presented by ECC kids and a sing-along. *6–7:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (kids age 2 & older, $5). Reservations required. 971–0990.*

"American Girl: Girls Night Out Party": St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Girls Empowered. Girls ages 6–10 invited to come dressed as their favorite American Girls character and enjoy a craft, dance, and snack. *6–9 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Women's Health Center, 5320 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). $25 (registration required). 712–5800.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Kids ages 2–10 can enjoy dinner, a dip in the pool (age 5 & older only), and games and sports. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $20 (members) $30 (nonmembers). Preregistration required. 996–9622.*

"Sharing from the Heart" Fund-Raiser: Sparsh. An Indian food dinner, live dance by nationally known local classical Indian dancer **Sreyashi Dey** and Ishika and Kritika Rajan, music by Shubhangi Deshpande, and a silent auction of local goods and Indian art pieces. Proceeds benefit the children's charity Sparsh, founded by Dey. *6:30–9 p.m., Sun Moon Yoga Studio, 404 W. Huron. Tickets $25 in advance and at the door. 929–0274.*

★"Vitanica: Women's Health Update": Whole Foods Market. Talk by Oregon naturopath Tori Hudson. *7–9 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

★2007 Ann Arbor Book Festival. See 17 Thursday. Today: an **author reception** features a chance to meet several of the writers attending the festival. Also, classical and folk music by harpist Deborah Gabrion. Refreshments. *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 369–3366.*

"Refusing to Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story" Michigan Theater Foundation. *May 18–22.* Screening of local filmmaker Laurie White's 58-minute documentary about Zeitouna, a local discussion group of Arabic and Jewish women whose focus is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The May 20 screening is followed by Q&A with White and Zeitouna members. *7:15 & 9:15 (May 18 & 19), 7 p.m. (May 20), 7:15 (May 21 & 22), Michigan Theater. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). Advance tickets available for the May 20 screening only at ticketweb.com. 668–8397.*

★"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of chants from a variety of Hindu traditions, including Vaishnava texts such as the *Srimad Bhagavatam*, from Shavite, Tantic, and Bhakti traditions, and from the writings of poet-saints such as Kabir, Tulsidas, and Mirabai. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian rags on bass guitar, tabla, and drams. *7:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Pioneer Theater Guild. See 11 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Stone Soup": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 17 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers. Slide-illustrated talks by club members Tom Dworman on **"Streetcars in Detroit, 1946–1956"** and Mark Hildebrandt on **"The Brooklyn Eastern District Terminal."** *8 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church social hall, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. 971–8329.*

Faileas: Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. The local Celtic music duo of fiddler Jessie Nieves and guitarist and bagpiper Zak Read performs Scottish and Cape Breton tunes. Also, Nieves performs step dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10 (AACTMAD members, $9). 769–1052.*

Josh White Jr.: Chelsea Music Celebrations. Known for his powerful, intense singing and his virtuosity on 6-string and 12-string guitars, White sings in a more modern style than his famous folksinger father. He is joined tonight by Detroit folksinger **Ron Coden.** *8 p.m., Chelsea High School auditorium, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the door. 433–2787.*

Jesse Palter Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz quartet led by this 21-year-old 2006 Detroit Music Award-winning jazz vocalist. So gifted she persuaded the U-M to accept her for a jazz vocals program they didn't even have at the time, Palter has gone on to perform with Paul Keller, Marcus Belgrave, and other Detroit jazz veterans. With pianist Mike Jellick, bassist Luques Curtis, and drummer

Keith Hall. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10. Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

RFD Boys: The Ark. Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. Proceeds benefit the Leslie Science Center, a city parks facility situated on 50 acres of fields, woods, and prairie that provides natural science and environmental education opportunities for kids and their families. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. $11 (students, seniors, & members, $10) at the door only. 761–1451.*

Katseye: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Katseye is Kathy Gravlin and Kathy Wieland, a local acoustic duo known for their rich, resonant vocal harmonies and for their varied repertoire of traditional songs, covers, and Wieland's witty, thoughtful originals about women's lives. They have a CD, *He Thinks I'm Good Lookin'. 8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"Hometown Hootenanny": Avalon Housing. Dancing to **Billy King & the Idylls,** a local country-flavored pop-folk band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist King, and **S Apostrophe,** a local jazz-inflected indie pop-rock quartet that recently released its debut CD, *I Was Born in the Dollar Store*. Also, a fast-paced auction of donated items from local businesses. Cash bar. Proceeds benefit Avalon, a 14-year-old local nonprofit agency that currently owns and manages over 173 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families in 15 sites scattered around town. *8–11 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. $15. 663–5858.*

Dance Ensemble of Michigan. Studio 1 director TeDee Theofil directs this independent local ensemble of 30 young dancers in a program celebrating the company's 13th anniversary with jazz dance works by Theofil and local choreographers Danielle Cameron, Lonnie Poupard, and Cristen Zeisler. *8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $20 in advance at Studio 1 (220 S. Main) and at the door. $10 student rush tickets available at the door only. 995–1747.*

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Jim McCue: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Spring Flowers Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 973–1933.*

The Album Leaf: The Blind Pig. Ambient electronica by this San Diego quintet. "[*Into the Blue Again*] resembles an expensive Mulholland Drive garden, the kind meticulously landscaped by medium-wage potheads and botany fetishists," says *Pop Matters* in its review of the band's new CD. "Every guitar chord is planted in just the right place to shine with prismatic luster on the senses. Meanwhile, the digitalia is left to grow wild, tangling itself like wire and plastic and concrete slabs littered across the soundscape." Opening acts are **Young Galaxy,** a male-female ambient duo from Montreal, and **Belong,** a New Orleans ambient electronic duo. *10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $10 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Into Great Silence" (Philip Groning, 2007). *April 18–24.* Meditative documentary about an ascetic community of Catholic monks in the French Alps. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

19 SATURDAY

★**"Invitation to Inventory!": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike around the newly purchased Miller Preserve to inventory its bird and plant population. *7 a.m. (bird inventory) & 10 a.m. (plant inventory), Miller Preserve, Parker Rd.'s dead-end at Dexter-Chelsea Rd., Dexter. Free. 971–6337.*

"17th Annual Heart and Sole Race": Chelsea Community Hospital. 5 and 10 km runs, a 2-mile

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Pianist Anton Nel

Sweet program

It's not easy having a dual career as a player and a teacher. On the one hand, you have the repertoire to learn, the practicing to do, and the performances to give. On the other, there are the students to teach, the meetings to attend, and the performances to hear. But Anton Nel, the South African–born piano virtuoso, has been doing it since shortly after he came to the United States. Fresh out of the University of Cincinnati, he was appointed to the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin. Then he did a professorship at the Eastman School in Rochester. Then he ran the piano department at the U-M in Ann Arbor. And currently he's heading keyboard studies back in Austin.

But even before he embarked on a teaching career that anyone would be proud of, Nel was winning awards as a pianist, first in South Africa and then at the 1984 Leeds Competition and the 1987 Naumburg Competition. And since graduating, Nel has played recitals around the world and appeared as a soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra and the symphonies of Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Detroit, London—and Ann Arbor, where his March 10 performance of Rachmaninoff's *Paganini Rhapsody* left the audience melted in their seats. Even though he's left Ann Arbor for Austin to teach, Nel still comes back every now and then to play.

This year, in addition to everything else, Nel's been polishing a sweet program of Haydn, Debussy, Granados, and Schumann in recitals around the country. Before taking the Schumann portion of the program to San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor in June, he'll bring it to Kerrytown Concert House on Saturday, May 19.

What is it about his playing that makes Nel special? While one could and should mention his immaculate technique, impeccable taste, poised performances, and balanced interpretations, one always returns to his beautiful tone. Although the piano looks like an instrument of polished ebony and ivory, on the inside it's all wooden hammers and metal strings, and getting a beautiful tone out of it is way harder than trying to get fast on it. And Nel's recital, though exceedingly difficult—any program with Granados's *Allegro de Concierto* on it is a knuckle buster—is basically built for beauty. The Haydn Sonata's ravishing Adagio, the Debussy *Estampes'* radiant "Jardins sous la Pluie," and the Schumann *Carnaval*'s passionate "Chopin" movement are textbook examples of beauty in music. And Anton Nel is the player to take their beauty out of the textbook and put it up on the concert stage where it belongs.

—James Leonard

19 SATURDAY *continued*

run/walk, and a 5 km walk to benefit the hospital. 3-deep awards per 10-year age group for the 5 km and 10 km, and awards for top 10 2-mile runners and walkers. *8:30 a.m., Chelsea Community Hospital, 775 S. Main, Chelsea. $20 (12 & younger, $12; families, $45) in advance; $25 (12 & younger, $15; families, $50) in advance on race day. 475–4157.*

Pre-Team State Gymnastics Meet: Gym America. *May 19 & 20.* More than 400 young Michigan gymnasts converge for a 2-day meet. Public welcome. *8 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, 606 Hoover at State St. $10 (students & seniors, $7). 971–1667.*

★**Mushroom Hunt: Michigan Mushroom Hunter's Club.** All invited to join club members on a hunt for edible fungi. Bring a bag lunch, compass, whistle, basket, and knife. All mushrooms are evaluated by experts for edibility after the hunt. The club also sponsors numerous other hunts this month in surrounding counties (see sph.umich.edu/~kwcee/mmhc) *9 a.m., Bird Hills Park (meet at the Barton Dam parking lot on Huron River Dr.). Free to visitors; $15 annual dues. 426–6182.*

"Walk & Wag": Huron Valley Humane Society. (See "Up Front," p. 9.) 300 local dogs usually attend this fund-raising walk and dog activity and game fest. In addition to a leisurely stroll through scenic park trails, participants of both species can watch the agile area performing dog troupe **Rock and Roll Canines** race gleefully though obstacle courses to music. For dogs, there's a **bone 'n' ball treasure hunt** in a hay maze, a chance to snag a treat from a treat-heaped kiddie pool, a "sit and stay" contest with prizes, and the popular and truly hilarious **bobbing for wieners** (bring a camera). Pawdicures. For people, there's face painting and Busch's hot dogs and snacks are available—there's so much going on that an organizer calls it a "25-ring circus." Proceeds benefit the Huron Valley Humane Society. *9 a.m.–noon, County Farm Park. Pledges or donation (small additional donation for some dog activities). 662–5585.*

★**19th Annual Downtown Cleanup: Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Hundreds of volunteers usually turn out for a morning of sweeping, trash collecting, flower planting, and other tasks to spruce up the downtown. Bring work gloves, brooms, and planting trowels, if you have them. All volunteers receive a free pizza-and-pop lunch at noon. *9 a.m.–noon (check-in 8–9 a.m.), meet at Liberty Plaza, Liberty at Division. Free. 994–4176.*

★**"Where the Wild Things Are": Waterloo Recreation Area.** A day of nature activities, including a guided hike to the popular sphagnum bog, a beehive demo, Petoskey stone polishing, a display of wildlife photography, and more. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center lower parking lot, Bush Rd. (west off Pierce Rd. from I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Space limited; preregistration required. Vehicle entrance fees: $6/day, $24/year ($6/year for seniors age 65 & over). 475–3170.*

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** See 5 Saturday. Today: a trip to **Marshall Nature Area** to remove invasive garlic mustard and other herbaceous invasives. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at the Marshall Nature Area parking lot off Dixboro Rd. north of Plymouth Rd.*

★**2007 Ann Arbor Book Festival.** See 17 Thursday. Today: An all-day street fair on North University between State and Fletcher features the display and sale of thousands of books at booths sponsored by local booksellers, publishers, and literacy organizations. Also, readings, signings, demos, and performances, and other book-related displays and activities in various locations.

The *Shaman Drum Mainstage* (Modern Languages Auditorium 4) begins with **"The Future of the Book II"** (11 a.m.), a panel discussion moderated by *Publishers Weekly* editor-in-chief Sara Nelson with Literary Ventures Fund founder James Bildner, U-M librarian Anne Karle-Zenith, PublicAffairs Books edi-

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19 SATURDAY *continued*

tor-at-large Peter Osnos, and Hachette Book Group marketing vice-president Karen Torres. Also, an interview with Emory University Hospital neurosurgeon and CNN chief medical correspondent **Sanjay Gupta** (12:30 p.m.), a reading by the award-winning fiction writer **Francine Prose** (1:30 p.m.) from her best-seller *Reading like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them*, a reading by **Nancy Willard** from her children's book *The Flying Bed* and a talk on their work by children's writers **Sarah Stewart** and **David Small** (3 p.m.), and a panel discussion, moderated by Shaman Drum owner Karl Pohrt, on **"Writing from Real Life"** (4 p.m.) with novelists **Joseph Coulson, Donald Evans,** and **Masha Hamilton,** who also discuss their new books.

The *Borders Stage* (Modern Languages Auditorium 3) kicks off with **"Books Change Lives"** (10 a.m.), a panel discussion with R.J. Julia Bookshop (Madison, Connecticut) owner Roxanne Coady, fiction writers Francine Prose and Dorothea Benton Frank, and Michigan's First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern. Also, a talk by *New York Times* national enterprise reporter **Timothy Egan** (11 a.m.), announcement of the Ann Arbor District Library **teen writing contest awards** (12:30 p.m.) by young adult fiction writer **Ron Koertge** (see 8 Tuesday), talks by Washington Center for the Book executive director **Nancy Pearl** (1:30 p.m.) and award-winning print and TV journalist **Raymond Arroyo** (3 p.m.), and a reading by former Detroit Tigers pitcher **Denny McLain** (4 p.m.) from his memoir *I Told You I Wasn't Perfect*.

The *Michigan Stage* (Modern Languages Lecture Room 1) begins with **"Writing in Maize and Blue"** (11 a.m.), a panel with former *Michigan Daily* reporters Betsy Carter, Nick Cotsonika, Roger Rappaport, Keith Richburg, James Tobin, and Harvey Wasserman. A session on **"Michigan Children's Writers/Illustrators"** (1:30 p.m.) features readings by fiction writer (and Dexter elementary school teacher) **Lisa Himle,** illustrator **Cyd Moore,** and nonfiction writer **Kristin Nitz.** Also, a reading by Newbery Award-winning children's fiction writer (and Flint native) **Christopher Paul Curtis** (3 p.m.) and a **"Pitch Panel"** (4 p.m.) during which aspiring writers can pitch their book ideas (for $10) to a panel of editors, agents, and writers.

The *Forum Stage* (Modern Languages Lecture Room 2) is highlighted by a reading by U-M grad **Janice Law** (12:30 p.m.) from her memoir of her first year as a judge on the criminal bench in Houston. Also, panels on **"Reading in Mixed Media"** (11 a.m.) and **"Making and Maintaining a Successful Book Group"** (1:30 p.m.) and readings by young adult fiction writers **Kathe Koja** and **DJ McHale** (4 p.m.).

The *West Pavilion* (North University) features fiction readings by novelist **Dorothea Benton Frank** (12:30 p.m.), crime mystery writer **Tim Dorsey** (3 p.m.), and thriller writer **Chuck Pfarrer** (4 p.m.), and panel discussions on **"The Female Perspective"** (11 a.m.) and **"The Emerging Genres"** (1:30 p.m.).

The *East Pavilion* (North University) features readings by nonfiction graphic book writer **Jim Ottaviani** (11 a.m.), money management expert **Glinda Bridgforth** (noon), graphic novelist **Mark Crilley** (1 p.m.), local memoirist **Theresa Reid** (2 p.m.), eco-activist **Harvey Wasserman** (3 p.m.), and nonfiction writer **Steve Lehto** (4 p.m.).

The *Ann Arbor District Library Pavilion* (North University near Hill Auditorium) features talks by **Masha Hamilton** (noon–12:45 p.m.) about *The Camel Bookmobile*, her novel about an American librarian working with a relief organization in Africa, and by children's book writer **Stacey DuFord** (1–1:45 p.m.) about *The Fairy Painting*, her new book about a 7-year-old girl who loves to paint. Also, a **"Celebrity Define-a-thon"** (4–5 p.m.) in which well-known local personalities compete to guess word definitions. Participants are Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts owner Vicki Honeyman, Observer editor John Hilton, Miss Washtenaw Sheila Klein, Artisan Market manager Samantha Misiak, Arts Alliance director Tamara Real, Ann Arbor Open School principal Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, Food Gatherers executive director Eileen Spring, Main Street Area Association marketing director Ellie Serras, Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau president Mary Kerr, former mayor Ingrid Sheldon, retired public school teacher Letitia Byrd, Ann Arbor Public Schools fine arts consultant Lynda Berg, Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce president Jesse Bernstein, and retired *Michigan Today* editor John Woodford.

The *International Pavilion* (North University) features **"Stories from the African Diaspora"** by local storyteller **Elizabeth James** (11–11:30 a.m. & 12:30–1 p.m.), Russian music by the father-son duo of **Sasha & Zelik Chernyak** (11:30 a.m.–noon), an interactive storytelling program on **"Exploring China"** (1–1:30 p.m.) by U-M Center for Chinese Studies outreach coordinator Carol Stepanchuk, a demo by the **U-M International Institute Folkdancers** (1:30–2 p.m.), north Indian classical music by local tabla player **John Churchville** (2:30–3 p.m.), **"South Asian Stories"** (3–3:30 p.m.) by local storytellers Rohit and Amanda Setty, and **"Calligraphy Bookmarks"** (3:30–5 p.m.), a chance to get your name written on a bookmark in one of several languages.

The *Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Pavilion* (North University) features readings by **Joe Novara and Steven Climer** (11–11:45 a.m.), **Marcy Heller Fisher and Janet Heller** (1–1:45 p.m.), **Cyd Moore and Kristin Nitz** (3–3:45 p.m.), and **Jean Alicia Elster** (4:30–5 p.m.).

The *Children's Pavilion* (North University) features **"Songs and Stories"** by Anita Greene (11 a.m.), a reading by Ron Meyer from his photo book ***His Reddy Fox*** (11:30 a.m.), a reading by Geri Taeckens (and her dog Kojak) from her ***Walking Along with My Dog*** (12:30 p.m.), a reading by Janice Harrington from her ***Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County*** (1 p.m.), folk music by **Banjo Betsy & Friends** (2 p.m.), **"Native American Stories"** (3 p.m.) by Margaret Noori & Friends, and a reading by Jean Alicia Elster from one of her **Joe Joe in the City** stories (4 p.m.).

The *Literacy Pavilion* (North University) features readings of their work by participants in the AAPS **Elementary School Writing Contest** (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.), **Greenhills School students** (1:30 p.m.), and other local students (2:30–4:30 p.m.).

The *Poetry Pavilion* (North University) features readings by **Judith Kerman** (11:30 a.m.), **Janice Harrington** (12:30 p.m.), **Meghan O'Rourke** (1 p.m.), and **Kevin Pilkington** (1:30 p.m.).

The *Body/Mind/Spirit Pavilion,* which opens at 11 a.m. with meditation, features talks by therapist **Sheila Quinn Simpson** (11:30 a.m.), psychologist **Timothy Ullman** (12:15 p.m.), reiki instructor **Sharon Baker** (1 p.m.), Spirit of Motherhood cofounder **Cheryl Steinberg** (2 p.m.), local homeopathic physician **Dennis Chernin** (3 p.m.), and *Thirdeye Magazine* editor **Jason Glover** (4 p.m.).

The *Outside Stage* (next to Burton Tower) begins with **"How Do Ideas in the Writer's Head Make Their Way onto Paper?"** (11 a.m.), a panel discussion moderated by Huron High School English teacher Jeff Kass with U-M English professor Eileen Pollack, EMU creative writing professor and fiction writer Jeff Parker, and local novelist Steve Amick. Also, a **carillon concert** (noon), readings by several **Exhibitors Booth authors** (12:30–3 p.m.), and **Disney Radio Detroit** (4:30–5:30 p.m.), a family-oriented program of games and music hosted by this Detroit radio station (910 AM). *10 a.m.–6 p.m., North University area. Free. 369–3366.*

★"Picnic Pops": Pioneer High School. An all-day musical bonanza of performances by local middle and high school bands and orchestras that an organizer calls "Ann Arbor's biggest block party." Also, a chance to moonbounce and play games of skill and chance. Brats and other picnic treats available. Rain or shine (it's under a big tent). *10:30 a.m.–6 p.m., PHS, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free admission. 663–1947.*

★5th Annual Plant Swap: Garden Faerie. All invited to swap annuals, perennials, biennials, shrubs, houseplants, herbs, seeds, garden tools, garden ornaments, garden tchotchkes, gardening magazines and books, and surplus gnomes. Lemonade, cake, and utensils provided. *11 a.m.–noon, Southeast Area Park, Platt at Ellsworth. Free. 975–6865.*

"Springtime on the Farm!": Rentschler Farm Historic Museum. Opening day for this century-old sheep farm, now a museum that depicts life ca. 1900 with 15 exhibits in 10 barns and tours of the farmhouse, which re-creates 30s farm life. Farmers at each exhibit give talks and demonstrate blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, beekeeping, and barn repairs with "The Barn Doctor." Also, a performance by the **Saline Fiddlers** (12:30 p.m.), a merry-go-round, a display of antique phonographs, and live entertainment TBA. Food available. Free wagon rides from the Sauk Trail Shopping Center, at Michigan Avenue and Ann Arbor–Saline Road. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Rentschler Farm, 7640 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. $1 donation (kids free). 769–2219.*

★"Buddha's Birthday Celebration": Zen Buddhist Temple. *May 19 & 20.* The most festive occasion of the Buddhist year begins today with a **"Peace and Happiness Street Parade"** (11 a.m.) for children of all ages. Kids invited to bring decorated bikes, strollers, hats, banners, and flags. Followed by a telling of the story of Buddha's birth and the traditional "Bathing of Baby Buddha" with sweet tea. Also, all poets invited to read their work at the **6th Annual Buddha's Birthday Poetry Event** (2 p.m.). Today's events conclude with an **"Evening Celebration"** (5 p.m.) that includes a buffet with vegetarian hors d'oeuvres, entrees, and dessert. Followed by entertainment by flamenco guitarist Joseph Pratt and

storytellers Ztaise Bradley, Star Burton-West, and Darryl Mickens. Also, on both days tea is served, and new and used Buddhist books are on sale. *11 a.m.–8:30 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. All events are free, except tonight's celebration (adults, $10; students, $7; families, $25). Tickets available in advance and at the door. 761–6520.*

★**Swordplay: Ring of Steel.** Michigan Opera Theater fight director Chris Barbeau leads one hour each of duel and stunt demos. Also, free lesson in swordplay available. *11:30 a.m., U-M Student Theater Arts Complex, 1201 Kipke Dr. (behind Crisler Arena). Free. 320–1147.*

★**Winnie-the-Pooh Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** A. A. Milne's beloved bear drops by to visit with kids and read some stories. *2 & 5 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"L'Esprit de Joie!"** Faber Piano Institute (Schoolcraft College) teacher **Veena Kulkarni,** a member of the local Eero Trio, performs works by Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms, and Messiaen. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. Free. 913–0124.*

"Stone Soup": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 17 Thursday. 1 & 7:30 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Pioneer Theater Guild. See 11 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

Little Richard: Michigan Theater Legends of Rock 'n' Roll Series. One of the true inventors of rock 'n' roll, Little Richard is one of only two rock pioneers—the other is Jerry Lee Lewis—to create a music too wild and too uncouth ever to be assimilated into mainstream pop. And unlike Jerry Lee's, Richard's peculiar blend of Pentecostal spirituality and apocalyptic raunch is energized by an emotional generosity and joyousness that even a Pat Boone wouldn't want to tame. His music hasn't changed since the 50s, but although the pacing of his concerts sometimes reflects his 74 years, he hasn't calmed down, either: indeed, he even managed to record an album of children's songs for Disney (*Shake It All About*) without pulling back on the reins of his runaway vocal energy. If anything, Little Richard's sense of himself—a transcendent self-delight that beggars narcissism—has grown more disarmingly outrageous as he's gotten older. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25–$75 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call contras to live music by Picks and Sticks. No partner needed. All dances taught; beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat-soled shoes. Preceded at 3–6 p.m. by a free jam for all musicians. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 665–8863.*

"American Treasures": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this 24-member local vocal ensemble in a concert of American choral music highlighted by a premiere of a work by local composer Frederic Himebaugh. Also, elegant Shaker songs, jaunty settings of Stephen Foster songs, and works by Elliott Carter, Eric Whitacre, and Irving Fine. *8 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal, 2309 Packard. $15 (students & seniors, $10). 741–7451.*

5th Annual Taiwanese American Heritage Week Celebration Concert: Michigan Taiwanese American Organization. Local youth finalists in a MTAO music contest perform works for strings and piano. Preceded by a Taiwanese buffet dinner ($10; seniors & kids 12 & under, $7 in the lobby, 5–8 p.m.). *8–9:30 p.m., Washtenaw Community College Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets (tentatively) $15 (seniors and kids 12 & under, $7) in advance, $17 (seniors and kids 12 & under, $10) at the door. Ticket prices include the buffet dinner. 332–0390.*

Anton Nel: Kerrytown Concert House. *See review, p. 113.* This acclaimed pianist, a former U-M music professor now at the University of Texas, performs a program highlighted by Haydn's Sonata in E-flat, regarded as his best work in the genre. Also, Granados's fiendishly difficult *Allegro de Concierto,* Debussy's zillion-note *Estampes,* and Schumann's resplendent *Carnaval*. *New York Times* critic Anthony Tommasini has called Nel "an uncommonly elegant pianist." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15, $20, & $30 in advance and at the door. 769–2999.*

The Duhks: The Ark. Self-styled "progressive soul-grass" blending traditional French Canadian, Scots/Maritime, and Appalachian idioms with supercharged island rhythms by this acclaimed Winnipeg quintet fronted by the punk-soul vocals of Jessica Havey. Other members are fiddler Tania Elizabeth, banjoist Leonard Podolak, guitarist Jordan McConnell, and percussionist Scott Senior. "The Duhks, a Canadian prog-folk band, turn 'Camptown Races' into a jittery, polyrhythmic island number. It's splendid," says *Washington Times* writer Scott Galupo in

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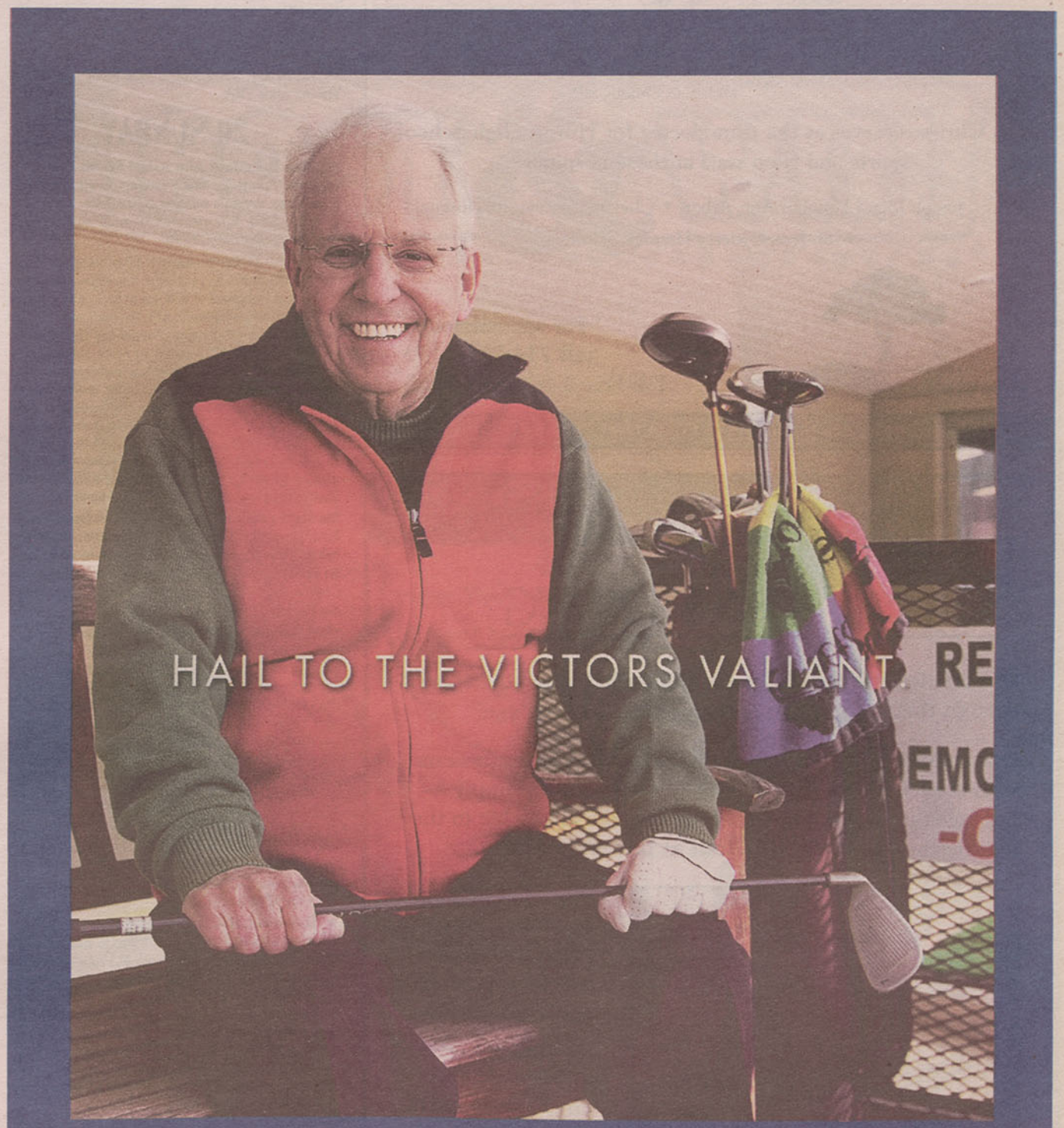

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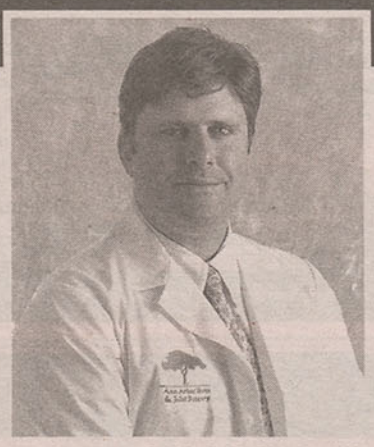

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19 SATURDAY *continued*

his review of the band's revelatory contribution to *Beautiful Dreamer: The Songs of Stephen Foster* CD. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jim McCue: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to recorded music. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a dance lesson. *9–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students, $1–$3) donation. 995–0011.*

★"Milonga Picante": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Tango dancing to recorded music. *Note:* People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free. 973–2338.*

FILMS

MTF. "Into Great Silence" (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

20 SUNDAY

Pancake Breakfast: Ann Arbor Seventh Day Adventists. Flapjacks and breakfast treats. Proceeds benefit the church's mission in Ecuador. *7–11 a.m., 2796 Packard. $10 donation (kids 11 and younger, $5; families $25). 971–5919.*

Ann Arbor Antiques Market. From its small Farmers' Market niche 30 years ago, this show has grown to national importance, with more than 300 antiques and collectibles dealers. It's the nation's largest monthly antiques show, and some say the best. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. This market is also an important source for dealers nationwide. Deliveries available; food for sale. No pets. Managed by Nancy and Woody Straub. *8 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). Free parking. (850) 984–0122 (before the show), 429–3145 (day of show).*

Spring Scramble: Ann Arbor Parks Department. Each player hits every shot from the spot of the best ball of their threesome. Awards. Open to all golfers; no handicaps. *8 a.m. shotgun start, Leslie Park Golf Course, 2120 Traver Rd. $160 per team. Preregistration required. 994–1163.*

"25th Annual For Women Only 5K Run and Fitness Walk": Ann Arbor Track Club. Women and girls of all ages are invited to participate in a 5 km run or fitness walk along a flat course on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. Awards for top 3 runners in various age divisions and top 2 mother-daughter, grandmother-granddaughter, and sister-sister teams. Refreshments, merchandise drawings. A portion of the proceeds donated to Girls on the Run of Southeastern Michigan. *8:30 a.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ellen Thomas Women's Health Center, 5301 Huron River Dr. Entry fee: $22 (age 15 & under, $16) online registration at aatrackclub.org, $23 (age 15 & under, $20) by mail (to Carolin Dick, 1105 Westview Way, AA 48103) postmarked by May 15, & $26 (age 15 & under, $24.50) day of race. 663–5680.*

★"Hathaway House Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Fast-paced 85-mile ride to Blissfield for brunch at the 100-year-old Hathaway House restaurant. Also, a moderate-paced 65-mile ride to the same destination leaves at 9 a.m. from the municipal parking lot on Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., and a slow-paced 45-mile ride leaves at 10 a.m. from the city parking lot on US-12 in Clinton. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 645–5840 (85-mile ride), (313) 562–9464 (65-mile ride), 663–5060 (45-mile ride).*

★"Buddha's Birthday Celebration": Zen Buddhist Temple. See 19 Saturday. Today's program begins at 9 a.m. with meditation, followed by a dharma talk and chanting. At 1 p.m., screening of an excerpt from local filmmaker Laurie White's popular documentary ***Refusing to Be Enemies*** (see 18 Thursday listing), followed by a discussion led by members of the local chapter of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. Also, an introductory lecture-demonstration on Zen meditation (3 p.m.) and an evening program (7:30 p.m.) that includes chanting and lighting of traditional lotus lanterns. 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

★Pinckney State Recreation Area "Secret" Hike: Sierra Club. All invited to this leisurely-paced 3–4-mile hike on the scenic Silver Lake trail, including a "secret" detour to the Pinckney trail loop. *10 a.m., carpool from Ann Arbor City Hall. Free. 677–0823.*

★"Sunday Fun with Gemini": Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center. Kids age 2 & up (and their parents) invited to join the popular local acoustic duo of twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits, along with guest percussionist **Aron Kaufman,** for a program of sing-alongs, folk songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, all performed with a boisterous sense of fun on more than a dozen instruments. *10–11 a.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. Reservations requested. 971–4633.*

★Border to Border Ride: Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month." Riders of all levels of ability invited to join a ride to Ypsilanti along the Washtenaw County Border to Border Trail for lunch at the Sidetrack Cafe in Depot Town. *11 a.m.–2 p.m., meet in the Bandemer Park parking lot, Barton Dr. at Whitmore Lake Rd. Free. 214–0100.*

"O-Meet": Southern Michigan Orienteering Club. See 5 Saturday. *Noon–2 p.m., Mill Lake, Waterloo Recreation Area (left off Pierce Road north from I-94). $5 (members, $4; beginners, $3). 662–1000.*

★Canoe Race: Village of Manchester. All invited to join or watch this thrilling 3-mile race down the glacier-carved River Raisin, allegedly the world's "crookedest" river, to Mill Pond near Main St., where most spectators congregate. *Noon, Fellows Bridge launch area on Sharon Valley Rd., Manchester. Free to spectators. Entry fee: $10 in advance, $12 day of race before 10 a.m.; children 12 & under, free. 428–8976.*

★2007 Ann Arbor Book Festival. See 17 Thursday. Today's activities begin at noon with a program TBA. **"Ann Arbor's Fairy Door Connection"** (1 p.m.) features a talk by Jonathan and Kathleen Wright on the urban fairy doors sprinkled around town and a reading by Kathleen Wright from her new children's book. **"Drawn Out: Children's Book Writers and Illustrators"** (2 p.m.) is a panel discussion moderated by Sleeping Bear Press sales and marketing director David Swan with illustrator Heidi Woodward and writers S. K. Hartung, Shutta Crum, and Lisa Wheeler. Bowling Green State University history professor and *Cambridge World History of Food* editor **Kenneth Kiple** (3 p.m.) reads from his groundbreaking new book ***A Movable Feast: Ten Millennia of Food Globalization.*** 826michigan hosts **"Bookmaking for Families"** (4 p.m.), a workshop at which kids ages 6–8 (accompanied by a parent) can make a book to take home. *Noon–5 p.m., U-M Modern Languages, 812 E. Washington. Free. 369–3366.*

★Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. See 5 Saturday. Today: a trip to **Huron Parkway Nature Area** to remove invasive garlic mustard. *1–4 p.m., meet in the park steward's house, 3470 Woodland off E. Huron River Dr.*

Cooking Sessions: Kitchen Port. *May 20 & 23.* With local chefs and cooks. Today: The U-M's Joseph Sak prepares a **"Pork Fest"** featuring pork ribs and pulled pork. Also this month: Lizzie Bert and Kathy Goldberg demonstrate **"More Cooking for Two"** (May 23). Also, at noon on May 16, a knife sharpening demo by Wusthof-Trident representative Ed Bartush. *1–2 p.m., Kitchen Port, 283 Zeeb Rd. $8. Preregistration recommended. 665–9188.*

"Stone Soup": Ann Arbor Junior Theater. See 17 Thursday. 1 & 3 p.m.

★"Patterns of Immigration, 1800–2000": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by veteran local genealogist Tom Barrett, a former Edsel Ford High School (Dearborn) social studies teacher. Followed by **"There Are No Dumb Questions in Genealogy,"** a Q&A with a panel of club members. *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

"Henry & Mudge": Theaterworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City–based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present a lavishly staged production of its adaptation of Cynthia Rylant's best-selling stories about a lonely young boy whose family has just moved from the city to the country. He finds a buddy in a big, slobbery, 180-pound canine, with whom he begins to explore his new neighborhood. Theaterworks is the country's most widely heralded producer of professional theater for young and family audiences. Its origins date from 1961, when *Young Abe Lincoln* became the first young people's musical to play on Broadway. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 (MTF members, $10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

★**"Trip to Oak Openings": Washtenaw Audubon Society/Wild Ones.** Join club members for a trip to Toledo's Kitty Todd nature area for a peek at the famous wild lupine and two species of the cheery orange puccoon. *2 p.m., meet at Matthaei. Free. 426–2862, 572–0333.*

★**Enlightened Minds Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Don Miguel Ruiz's ***The Voice of Knowledge: A Practical Guide to Inner Peace.*** *2 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 272–9353.*

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**"Phragmipedium and Their Habitats": Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by Sarasota orchid expert Eric Christensen. Also, sale, silent auction, and raffle of orchids, and show-and-tell of members' plants. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647–7600, 663–0756.*

★**"Gender Variant Identities: Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.** Talk by Antonia Caretto, a psychologist with the U-M's Gender Services Program. *2–5 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division at Catherine. Free. 741–0659.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman and David Park Williams and music by David West, Mark Williams, and Donna Baird. Also, popular 19th-century musical games without instrumental accompaniment. *2 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $6 ($12 per family). 769–1052.*

"Gala 32": Studio School of Dance. Ballet and jazz dance by students of Studio 1 director TeDee Theofil. Also, a guest performance by **Dance Ensemble of Michigan** (see 18 Friday listing). *2 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $10 in advance at Studio 1 (220 S. Main) and at the door. 995–1747.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Pioneer Theater Guild. See 11 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Michigan Classical Repertory Theater. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Middle East Film Society.** Screening of the documentary ***Life in Occupied Palestine.*** Followed by discussion. *2 p.m., Michigan Union Anderson Room. Free; donations appreciated. 668–1358.*

★**Dexter Community Orchestra.** Don Parrish conducts this volunteer ensemble in a program that includes Respighi's *Pines of Rome,* Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kije Suite,* and Berlioz's "Rakoczi March." *3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south of Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355–0725.*

Kol Halev Concert: Temple Beth Emeth. The temple's Kol Halev choir performs a concert of sacred and secular music. *3 p.m., TBE, 2309 Packard Rd. $5. 665–4744.*

The China Magpie: International Chamber Players. This Beijing-based quartet performs a mixture of Chinese folk music and Western music from rock to classical. *3 p.m., Pease Auditorium, EMU campus, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. $18 (students and seniors, $10). 487–2282.*

"Virgin Song": Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Deborah Friauff conducts this 16-member local ensemble in a program of songs devoted to Mary and other noted virgins throughout history. The music include Gregorian chant, chants by Hildegard of Bingen, and works by Holst, Palestrina, Cozzolani, Dunstable, Durufle, Lou Harrison, and others. Accompanied by local cornettist Kiri Tollaksen and recorder players drawn from the group's ranks. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 206 N. Division. $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5) at the door only. 995–5320.*

"Verdi's Requiem": First Presbyterian Church. Susan Boggs directs the church's chancel choir, soloists, and the Michigan Sinfonietta in Verdi's dramatic setting of the funeral Mass, an alternately tumultuous and sublime work, composed in memory of the Italian poet Alessandro Manzoni, that one critic called "an opera in ecclesiastical dress." Soloists are soprano Martha Shiel, mezzo-soprano Kristin Eder, tenor Glenn Perry, and bass Philip Pierson. *4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. $10 suggested donation. 662–4466.*

"A Festival of Song": Boychoir of Ann Arbor 20th Anniversary Concert. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble in a program that features performances by all 3 Boychoir choirs—a traditional treble Performing Choir made up of 24

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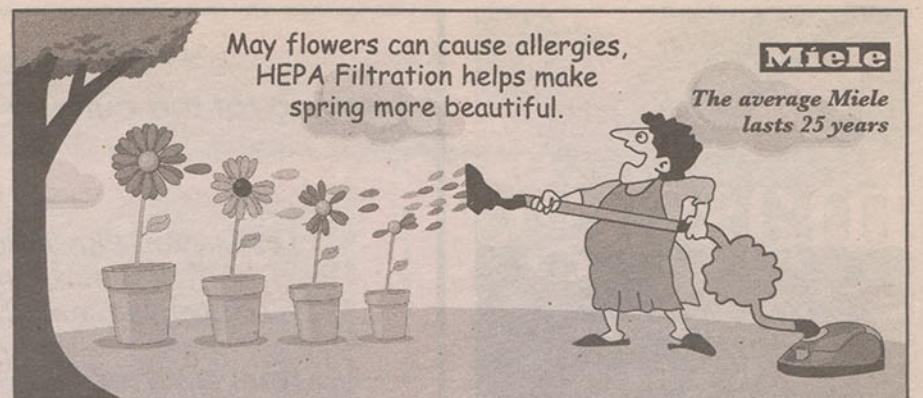

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20 SUNDAY *continued*

boys ages 9–14, a Preparatory Choir for boys ages 8–10, and Cantabile, a 16-member ensemble of experienced trebles and older teens—as well as individual Boychoir alumni, who perform jazz, musical theater, and classical music. The Boychoir program is highlighted by a reprise of the "Gloria Tibi" from Bernstein's Mass, which the Boychoir performed at its inaugural performance at the gala reopening of the renovated Michigan Theater in 1987. Also, John Rutter's setting of the Shakespearean text "It was a lover and his lass" (with improvisational jazz piano accompaniment by Boychoir alumnus Glenn Tucker), excerpts from Bob Chilcott's setting of a humorous text about the chemical elements, Renaissance composer William Cornyshe's "Ah, Robyn," and the exuberant "Food, Glorious Food" from *Oliver!* Also, the 3 choirs and alumni join forces to perform Chilcott's arrangement of "How Can I Keep from Singing" and his "The Singing Heart," and other Boychoir favorites. *4 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, Michigan League. Donation. 663–5377.*

"Bharatanatyam": Sadhana Dance Studio. Local classical Indian dancer-choreographer Madhavi Marcia Mai leads her youth and adult student dancers in a program of this South Indian dramatic dance that tell stories in Sanskrit, Tamil, and English, through gesture and geometric, percussive movement. Accompanied by vina player Prabha Dhayalan and mridangam drummer Sam Jeyasingham. Proceeds benefit the Amma Center Tsunami Rebuilding Project. A benefit for the humanitarian work of the Amma Center of Michigan. *4 p.m., Arthur Miller Theatre, Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. $10 at the door only. 665–4930.*

"The ____ Prince": Dreamland Theater. *May 20 & 27.* Dreamland Theater puppeteer Naia Venturi directs this mad-lib marionette show for kids, a satirical mash-up of fairy tales that offers audience members a chance to help create the story by filling in blanks in the script before the show. *4 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***Tapas on the Ramblas,*** Anthony Bidulka's 2nd murder mystery in his Russell Quant series. *4:30–6:30 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4186.*

★**Sacred Music Concert: St. Thomas the Apostle Church.** Lucia Campbell directs the choir, organ, soloists, and saxophones in a local composer's new work, *Ten Meditations on the Entrance into Eternity,* and works by Salieri, Rossini, and Moore. *4:30 p.m., St. Thomas, State at Kingsley. Free. 761-8606.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. Tom Starks leads an evening of Israeli dancing. Instruction provided. *7–9 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5. 971–0990.*

"Sacred Storytelling": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. *May 20 & 21 (different locations).* Local playwright Jeffrey Steiger directs his play based on dialogues with local faith groups. *7 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. $10 (high school students & younger, $5). 424–1535.*

Fairport Convention: The Ark. The inventors of a distinctively English folk-rock that is considerably more stately and orchestral than its American precursor, Fairport Convention is celebrating its 40th anniversary last year with a lineup that includes 2 original members—guitarist Simon Nicol and bassist Dave Pegg—and fiddler Ric Sanders, mandolinist/fiddler Chris Leslie, and drummer Gerry Conway. Its repertoire includes new and old material and the band's trademark mix of English folk songs, originals, and choice covers of contemporary songwriters. *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

MTF. "Into Great Silence" (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

21 MONDAY

★**"LGBT Patients": U-M Health System Multicultural Health Series.** Talk by U-M Community Health Services representative Alfreda Rooks Jordan. *Noon–1 p.m., Mott Children's Hospital Auditorium, 1505 Simpson (off E. Medical Center Dr. from Observatory). Free. 936–9836.*

★**"PowerPoint Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 21 & 23.* Hands-on 2-part introduction using this popular program for multimedia presentations. *1 p.m., AADL West Branch, Westgate shopping center, & 7 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

Australian Shepherd Dog Trials

Sheep and shepherds

My family and I attended the Twenty-sixth Annual Australian Shepherd Dog Trials on a lark. At the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, the morning was breezy and sunny, perfect for watching dogs perform. The participants. Everyone seemed to be just waking up at 9 a.m. Judges sat in a white building overlooking the field. A dog owner led his dog into the pen and told the dog to begin. Then five sheep came out of a gate into the field. The dog suddenly got to work, attempting to direct the flustered sheep through three panels, including a chute, without barking. The first dog, named Shadow, was not obeying his owner, and the sheep ran wild. The interactions among trainer, dog, and sheep were fascinating—part of the fun was trying to understand the meaning of the commands, such as "Go by," "Away," and "Lie down." By the fourth trial, our kids were authorities on the Aussie breed, making comments like "That one was really well trained" and "If that was my dog, I'd name him Caramel."

Our favorite dog was Quick, otherwise known as Caramel, a five-year-old Red Merle variety with luscious red-and-white fur. He hailed from Imagine Farm in Manchester. Listening attentively to his owner, Becky Bailie, he took a few elegant steps to herd the sheep exactly through their paces. After all the contestants herded sheep, they switched to herding ducks in a smaller pen. We stayed to watch Quick guide five mallards around a course. With a few Aussie shepherd steps in the right direction, the ducks miraculously flapped around the route in the correct order.

We plan to go back to watch the cattle herding at the Twenty-seventh Annual Trials, which run Saturday through Monday, May 26–28, at a new location, Imagine Farm. It will be hard to beat the duck trials for generating awe in the power of a human relationship with a dog that makes a flock of birds move in a coordinated way.

—Corry Berkooz

beautifully brushed black-and-white dogs were calm and well mannered. Held on close leashes, they frequently checked their owners' faces for commands. If only children behaved like this. Our three kids, ages three, seven, and ten, grumbled when they saw the setup for the trials. Simple pole barns for dog shows on rocky ground hid a few pens out back for the trials. Swallows and small airplanes swooped overhead. The only refreshments were from vending machines. My husband and I exchanged glances but decided to give it a try. After all, it was free.

We sat on bleachers to watch the trials, the only spectators who didn't seem to be

★**"Heartburn and Digestion": Wholistic Doc.** Local chiropractor Shannon Dicks discusses how to treat digestive problems with natural therapies. *7–8 p.m., Nutritional Healing Centers of Ann Arbor, 3610 W. Liberty. Free. Preregistration requested. 302–7575.*

★**"Vancansopaupursophobia (Fear of the Blank Page), Volume II": Neutral Zone Book Club.** Local young writers in grades K–12 read their short fiction and poetry collected in this new youth-produced anthology. Copies available for purchase ($10). Signings. *7 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Elizabeth Berg: Liberty Borders.** This best-selling novelist discusses ***Dream When You're Feeling Blue,*** her nostalgic novel about a group of Irish American women in Chicago who watch their men leave for WW II as attitudes towards working and single women change. A *Booklist* critic calls the work an "affectionate tribute to the patriotic 1940s and the women of the Greatest Generation." Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

"Sacred Storytelling": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County. See 20 Sunday. *7 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth/St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $10 (high school students & younger, $5). 424–1535.*

★**Auction: Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** Auction of U.S. and foreign stamps, covers, and collector supplies. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

Open Stage Showcase Reunion: The Ark. Performances by several of the musicians featured over the past decade in the Ark's annual showcase of top acts from the previous year's monthly open mike nights. Performers include **Annie & Rod Capps, Bill Edwards, Jimmy DeHeno, Kyle Norris, Dave Boutette, Bill Bynum, Katie Geddes, Katseye, Lyn Sawicki, Alan Sturt, Richard Lawrence, Joel Palmer,** and others TBA. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

FILMS

Melange. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." See 7 Monday. Tonight: **"Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy"** (Adam McKay, 2004). Will Ferrell is perfectly hilarious as a perfectly coiffed local TV news airhead anchor. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "An Unreasonable Man"** (Henriette Mantel and Steve Skrovan, 2007). *May 21 & 23.* Sympathetic documentary about Ralph Nader, focusing on his unsuccessful 2000 presidential campaign. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Into Great Silence"** (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

22 TUESDAY

★**"Lunchtime River Walk": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** *May 9 & 11.* City parks staff member Amy Kuras leads a brisk downtown walk along the Huron River. *Noon–1 p.m., meet in front of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Ave. Free. 214–0100.*

★**"Aging with Attitude: A New Stage of Life": U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** Talks by local social worker Mary Rumman and U-M volunteer services representative Althea Jordan. *Noon–1:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required. 998–9353.*

"Oyster Tasting with Ari": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig dis-

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22 TUESDAY *continued*

cusses and offers taste samples of nuanced flavors of oysters from each of the 3 coasts. *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $35 (6 oysters), $55 (12 oysters). Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★**"Nicaragua: Cichlids from the Crater": U-M Aquarium Society.** Screening of Willem Heijns's acclaimed 2006 film that examines the amazing behavior of these Central American fish, including one species that helps its natural predator raise its fry, for surprising reasons. Note new location. *7 p.m., Rackham Graduate School 4th Floor Conference Room. Free. 274–1722.*

★**Sue Stauffacher: Borders Express.** This acclaimed Grand Rapids young adult fiction writer discusses her work, which features such memorable characters as a tough-as-nails yet forlorn tomboy trying to join her mom in jail and an obsessive-compulsive, germ-phobic middle-school antihero. Also, signing. *7 p.m., Borders Express, Briarwood mall. Free. 669–0785.*

★**Chuck Barris: Ann Arbor District Library.** This legendary TV producer—the inventor of *The Newlywed Game, The Dating Game,* and *The Gong Show*—discusses his career and his new book, the futuristic game show satire *The Big Question: A Novel of Reality Television*. Barris's outrageous memoir, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind,* was made into a film. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

★**Mary White: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This local novelist reads from ***Trust & Betrayal,*** her novel about a happily married professor at a small college in Michigan whose life is turned upside down when she becomes privy to a secret that creates conflict between her private loyalties and public responsibilities. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

Dinner Dance: Tuesday Night Dancers. Ballroom dancing to live music by the Mike Wolverton Band. Includes fox-trots, waltzes, Latin and swing dancing, and more. Singles and couples welcome. Preceded at 7 p.m. by dinner. No jeans. *8–10:45 p.m., Grotto Club of Ann Arbor, 2070 W. Stadium. $17 (includes dinner) in advance only. (517) 787–6367, (517) 592–5771.*

★**Ginn Sisters: The Ark "Take a Chance Tuesdays."** Sassy, upbeat American roots-music originals by this talented young Austin acoustic quartet that's fronted by singer-songwriter and guitarist Tiffani Ginn and flutist and melodica player Brit Ginn, who also provides vocal harmonies. The band has a CD, *Blood Oranges*. Part of a monthly series of free concerts showcasing lesser-known artists on the roster of the prestigious local management agency Fleming Artists. All encouraged to bring nonperishable food or money to donate to Food Gatherers. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. 761–1451.*

FILMS

Michigan Theater Foundation. "Offside" (Jafar Panahi, 2007). *May 22 & 23.* When a group of female soccer fans defy Iranian law and sneak into a stadium, they're halfheartedly imprisoned by reluctant young soldiers. Persian, subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Into Great Silence"** (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

23 WEDNESDAY

★**"Be Good to Your Whole Body: Cleansing": Whole Foods Market.** Talk by Whole Foods staff member Heather Brumwell. *12:30–1:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 975–4500.*

★**"Get the Energy to Enjoy Your Life!": Wholistic Doctor.** Local chiropractor Darren Schmidt discusses foods that increase or decrease one's energy. *7–8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyle Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations recommended. 302–7575.*

★**Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. Legos Mindstorms robots and radio-controlled cars available for kids to use. *7 p.m., Corsa Instruments, 2370 Abbott (off Stadium just south of Jackson). Free. 332–1000.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky. The focus tonight is our relationship to the divine. Also, socializing. *7:30 p.m., 3003 Washtenaw, suite 2 (entry on Glenwood, next to Arby's). Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

★**"An Evening with Suthin Sukosolvisit": Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.** Lecture-demonstration by this renowned Thailand-born bonsai master from Massachusetts. Also, a peek at the Matthaei Botanical Garden's bonsai collection. *7:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 747–6493.*

★**Jazz Band Concert: Huron High School.** Jazz works TBA. *7:30 p.m., Meyers Auditorium, Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2095.*

Hal Ketchum: The Ark. This veteran Nashville-based country singer-songwriter from upstate New York has been performing since the late 70s, but he first came to national attention in 1991 with the hit "Small Town Saturday Night." His songs are known for their dark, doom-haunted themes and understated lyrical beauty. He has a brand-new CD, *One More Midnight,* a collection of romantic ballads and folk-style story songs that is highlighted by the 26-verse romantic epic "Poor Lila's Ghost." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $20 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Into Great Silence" (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. **"An Unreasonable Man"** (Henriette Mantel and Steve Skrovan, 2007). See 21 Monday. Mich., times TBA. **"Offside"** (Jafar Panahi, 2007). See 22 Tuesday. Mich., times TBA.

24 THURSDAY

★**"Trunk-a-Palooza": Kerrytown District Association.** (See My Town, p. 25.) Monthly garage sale with folks selling everything from metal lunch boxes to busts of a youthful James Dean from the trunks of their cars. Live music TBA. Food available. *4–7 p.m., Farmers' Market, between Fourth Ave. and Detroit St. Free admission. Vendors: preregister for $20 at glbtbooks.com/TrunkInput.htm. 994–3276.*

★**9th Annual Fiction and Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony: *Current* Magazine.** Readings by the winners of *Current*'s annual spring writing contest. This appealingly informal event always features an interesting mix of polished writers and beginners who've never read in public. Live music by local jazz guitarist **Jake Reichbart.** Refreshments. *5:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–4044.*

★**"Urban Cycling Skills": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** Ann Arbor police detective Tom Tanner discusses basic and advanced skills for safe bicycling in the city. *6:30–8:30 p.m., in front of City Hall, 100 N. Fifth Ave. at Huron. Free. 214–0100.*

★**"Migraines and Headaches: What Are Your Holistic Options?": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local holistic health practitioner Linda Diane Feldt. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. 114 S. Main St. Free. Preregistration requested. 994–4589.*

★**Kawita Kandpal: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Detroit poet reads from ***Folding a River,*** her collection of poems exploring the interpenetration of Eastern and Western languages and landscapes in memory and imagination. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Spring Choir Concert: Huron High School.** Several student vocal music ensembles perform a variety of works. *7 p.m., Meyers Auditorium, Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd. Free. 994–2095.*

"4th Saturday Contra Dance": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Danika Murray calls to music by the Stout Hearted String Band. No partner needed. All dances taught. Beginners workshop at 7:40 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9. 730–6919.*

Kristin Hersh: The Ark. The longtime lead singer of the eccentric postpunk band Throwing Muses, Hersh has won fresh attention and widespread acclaim since going solo. Her music blends a fetching melodicism with open-ended, often complex structures, and with its demented intensity and suggestion of multiple personalities, her singing makes her sound like a female Gordon Gano. Her brand new CD, *Learning to Sing Like a Star,* features unusual violin and cello textures, and she performs tonight with a band. Opening act is **Troy Campbell,** an alt-country-rock singer-songwriter whose music fuses mountain music stomp with a headlong romanticism that has gained the attention of kindred spirit Bruce Springsteen, who calls Campbell "a rare voice." *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $15 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Tick-*

et Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.

"Pianists: Our Town, Our Time!": Kerrytown Concert House. *May 24 & 25.* Local boogie-woogie piano luminary Mark "Mr. B" Braun is joined by 7 other notable local pianists for a program of piano music in an array of idioms. The other performers are Pulitzer Prize–winning composer and pianist **William Bolcom,** U-M early-jazz piano professor **James Dapogny,** veteran local R&B and rock 'n' roll singer-pianist **Al Hill,** internationally acclaimed local classical pianist **Waleed Howrani,** U-M music-student pianist **Glenn Persello-Seefeld,** MSU jazz professor **Rick Roe,** and Jackson jazz pianist **Tad Weed.** Proceeds from the sale of recordings of this concert benefit a charity TBA. *May 24 & 25. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $25 (students, $15). Reservations suggested. 769–2999.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theater Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Elliott Branch: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 24–26.* This Detroit-bred comic who now lives in L.A. is known for his high-speed, hurricane-force monologues offering goofy, somewhat profane takes on a wide range of topics from the oddities of childhood to broken-down cars, cars with fancy options, beer, and beer commercials. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

FILMS

MTF. "Into Great Silence" (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

25 FRIDAY

★"Buying a Digital Camera": Ann Arbor District Library. AADL staff explain options available in digital cameras. *3–5 p.m., AADL training room (3rd floor), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★Last Friday Ride: Ann Arbor Critical Mass. Join members of this local group that promotes bikes for urban commuting for a leisurely round-trip downtown ride sprinkled with a few fervent pro-bike chants. *5:30 p.m., corner of North University & State. Free. 769–9136.*

★Mario Kart Tournament: Ann Arbor District Library. All players grade 6–adult invited to compete in a tournament playing this popular video game. Prizes. *6–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. All invited to discuss ***The Brightening Glance: Imagination and Childhood,*** Ellen Handler Spitz's new book exploring ways to promote children's creative and emotional growth by making the most of the unlimited possibilities of everyday experiences. *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

Blanche: The Ark. Detroit postpunk country and psychobilly garage quintet fronted by former Goober and the Peas frontman Dan Miller and his wife, Tracee Miller. Their music combines the intense desperation of the Gun Club, the bone-deep melancholy of the Carter Family, and the creepy playfulness of Lee Hazlewood. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $13.50 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

"Pianists: Our Town, Our Time!": Kerrytown Concert House "Jazz at the Edge." See 24 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Improv with the Vegans": Dreamland Theater. The Detroit-based troupe **Vegan Meat Locker** presents a fast-paced, hugely enjoyable torrent of improv comedy featuring ridiculously absurd scenarios, many based on audience suggestions, and quicksilver humor with hilariously deadpan hairpin twists. Opening act TBA. Note new location. *8 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

Elliott Branch: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 24 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Luther "Badman" Keith: The Firefly Club. R&B-inflected Detroit blues band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Keith. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Firefly Club, 207 S. Ashley. $12 at the door only. 665–9090.*

FILMS

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. "The Prince of Tides" (Barbra Streisand, 1991). Affecting tale about an unemployed South Carolina teacher who tries to help his suicidal sister, only to begin falling for her psychiatrist. Based on the Pat Conroy novel. Nick Nolte, Barbra Streisand. Popcorn. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (207 E. Washington), 7 p.m. **Michigan Theater Foundation. "Black Book"** (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). *May 25–31.* Taut, exciting war thriller about a Jewish singer in hiding during WW II. Dutch & German, subtitles. $8.50 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $6.75; MTF members, $6). 668–TIME. Michigan Theater, times TBA. **"Into Great Silence"** (Philip Groning, 2007). See 18 Friday. Mich., times TBA.

26 SATURDAY

★Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 998–9540.*

★Oak Openings Garden: Wild Ones. A naturalist TBA discusses the native plants of this area of the U-M Arboretum that features a re-creation of the local terrain before the founding of Ann Arbor. Also, all invited to help remove invasive plants; bring gloves and closed-toe footwear. Young people must be accompanied by a parent or teacher. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at an Arb location TBA. Free. 769–6981.*

★29th Annual Great Lakes Special Stockdog Trials: Southeast Michigan Australian Shepherd Association. *May 26–28. See review, p. 000.* Several hundred Australian shepherd dogs and herding breeds from across Michigan and out of state compete to herd harlequin ducks, hardy Dorper sheep, and beef cattle—it's amazing to see the control these nimble dogs have over animals many times their size. *9 a.m.–afternoon, Imagine Farm, 10202 Hogan, Manchester (take M-52 south to east on Hogan Rd.). Free. (517) 675–5275.*

"Imagination Celebration": Imagination Theater Etc. (Performance Network Children's Theater Network). The Troy-based duo of **JanetMarie & m'Archibald** present a program of traditional and original sing-alongs and interactive stories celebrating health and fitness, self-esteem, cooperation, and just plain fun. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

★"Backyard BBQ": Journeys. This touring parking-lot party features live music and demonstrations of daring skateboarding moves and freestyle motocross tricks. Show and sale of skateboarding and motocross gear by Osiris and Globe. Music: upbeat progressive rock by Royal Oak band **Monkey Jacket** (noon–12:45 p.m.), ska-inflected rock by Novi band **Soapbox Paradox** (2–2:45 p.m.), driving rock by the local band **Andreyka** (3:15–4 p.m.), and foot-tapping powerpop by the Detroit band **Love Arcade** (5–6 p.m.). Free manicures, a chance to "Punk your Chucks" by decorating a free (while they last) pair of white Converse shoes, and assorted skateboard- and motocross-related giveaways (while they last). Food available from a Briarwood vendor TBA. *Noon–6:30 p.m., Briarwood parking lot. Free admission. 769–9610.*

★U-M Men's City Rugby Club vs. Fort Wayne. The U-M city team (which includes townies as well as U-M grad students, faculty, and staff) plays this Midwest Rugby League Division III rival. *1 p.m., Riverside Park (off Wall St.). Free. 623–0988.*

★"Nintendo Wii Sports Tournament": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades 6–12 invited to compete against other players in bowling, boxing, and baseball video games. *1–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Explore Edible Herbs": Ann Arbor District Library. Abbott's Landscape Nursery staff show how to select, plant, and grow an edible herb to take home. *2–4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

"Frog Fest": Leslie Science Center (Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation). Family-oriented program includes practice making frog calls followed by a walk to the pond to listen to the frogs and toads calling each other. Also, games and other activities to discover more about frogs, toads, and salamanders. *7–9 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6 (family, $25). Preregistration required. 997–1553.*

★"Prints and Cameras": Ann Arbor Black-and-White Photography Co-op. All invited to join a group discussion. Also, new member orientation. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 846–4492.*

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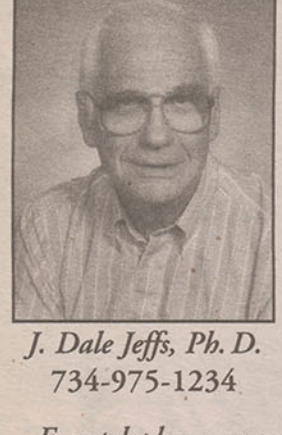

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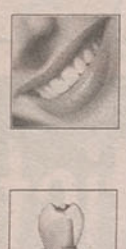

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26 SATURDAY *continued*

The Decadence Between Us: Neutral Zone Weapons of Musical Diversity Series. CD release party for this Hartland experimental hardcore-metal band. Opening acts are Ypsilanti hardcore band **Ru'Ach** and the area metal bands **Fuller** and **Glasskirt.** *7–11 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington St. $7 (students, $5). 214–9995.*

★"Classic Rock Revue": Ann Arbor Music Center. Ensembles of AAMC adult students perform classic and modern rock. *8 p.m., Starbucks, 1214 South University. Free. 665–0375.*

"PhoenixPhest 2006": Phoenix Ensemble. *May 26 & 27 (different programs & locations).* This 2-day chamber music festival is the culmination of 3 days of workshops with youth musicians. Today: members of the local Phoenix Ensemble perform selections from Shostakovich and Brahms piano quintets, excerpts from Mendelssohn's Octet, a selection of Bartok duos, and Ravel's Sonata. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Tickets $10 in advance and at the door. 358–2100.*

Carrie Newcomer: Journeys International. This acclaimed young singer-songwriter from northern Indiana is a dynamic performer whose songs explore the nourishments of the spirit in everyday life with a gritty realism and soft-spoken charm. A stylish singer with a dark, smoky alto, she uses a honky-tonk drawl and a bluesy purr to give her songs a seasoned toughness and a seductive sensuality, despite her Quaker roots. Proceeds benefit the Global Fund for Women. *8 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. $25 ($15) donation in advance and at the door. 665–4407.*

"4th Saturday Contra Dance": Ann Arbor Council for Traditional Music and Dance. Carol Jacobs calls contras to music by 'Twas Brillig & the Mazel Toves. No partner needed. All dances taught. Beginner's workshop at 7:40 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9. 730–6919.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Elliott Branch: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 24 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Vagabond Variety Show 2": Dreamland Theater. Incendiary goth belly dancing by the area trio **Lunatic Vagabonds,** who perform to prerecorded alternative pop-rock and incorporate homemade costumes that mix elements of traditional belly dance costume, thrift store chic, punk style, and voodoo allure. Also, circus-style fire twirling by Waterford fire artist **Andrew D'Ascenzo,** along with Brooklyn alternative belly dancer **Crystal,** the Flint belly dance troupe **Carnival Mijnoon,** vaudeville acts TBA, and a torch song or two by hosts Nadina and Richard. *10 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $8 in advance, $10 at the door. 657–2337.*

FILMS

MTF. "Black Book" (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). See 25 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

27 SUNDAY

★"Hudson Mills Metropark": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Karen Markey leads a hike through the park to look for a variety of birds usually found there, including the yellow-throated vireo, scarlet tanager, wood thrush, blue-winged warbler, and more. *7:30 a.m., meet at the flagpole in front of the Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. Free. Vehicle entrance fees: $4/day, $20/year ($12 for seniors age 62 & over). 994–3569.*

★"Memorial Day Sunday Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. The assembled riders determine the ride's pace and destination. All invited. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 913–9851.*

★Dan Rice Memorial Regatta: U-M Sailing Club. All invited to watch club members race their zippy JY15 dinghies around Base Line Lake in a regatta dedicated to the club's late longtime sailing instructor Dan Rice. *10 a.m., Base Line Lake, Strawberry Lake Rd. (between Mast Rd. and Huron River Dr. north from Territorial Rd.), Dexter. Free. 426–4299.*

★23rd Annual Memorial Day Observance: Arborcrest Memorial Park. This annual tribute features speeches by local public office holders TBA. Attendees include local veteran associations, a drill team, and several Girl and Boy Scout troops. Live entertainment by the County Connection chorus. Also, a bugle salute. Rain or shine. Refreshments. *2*

p.m., Arborcrest Memorial Park, 2521 Glazier Way (behind the VA hospital, ¼ mile west of Huron Pkwy.). Free. 761–4572.

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"Amadeus": Performance Network Professional Season. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"PhoenixPhest 2006": The Phoenix Ensemble.** See 26 Saturday. Today: Performances by large and small ensembles of students in Phoenix Ensemble workshops held earlier this week. *3 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 662–1438.*

"The ____ Prince": Dreamland Theater. See 20 Sunday. 4 p.m.

"Sacred Drum Circle": Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers. All invited for a freeform drum circle. No experience necessary. Bring a drum if you have one. *5 p.m., Body-Mind-Spirit Wellness Centers, 2007 S. State. $5. Preregistration requested. 945–8602.*

★**Society for Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The True Story of Hansel and Gretel,*** Louise Murphy's dark, gripping novel that recasts the fairy tale as a story of a girl and boy hiding from the Nazis in a Polish forest during WW II. *6–8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

FILMS

MTF. "Black Book" (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). See 25 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

28 MONDAY (Memorial Day)

★**"Memorial Day Democratic Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** The assembled riders determine the ride's pace and destination. All invited. *9 a.m., Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431.*

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast: Yankee Air Force Museum. Flapjacks, breakfast treats, and a chance to examine the 20 static aircraft on display. *9 a.m.–noon, Yankee Air Force Museum, 2041 A St., Willow Run Airport (exit 185 off I-94), Ypsilanti. $5. 483–4030.*

★**Ypsilanti Memorial Day Processional: American Legion Post 282.** Large procession with school bands, neighborhood and group floats, Girl Scouts, and others. Starts at Oakwood and West Cross and heads east to Depot Town. After a memorial wreath-tossing ceremony on the Cross Street bridge, the parade continues on to Highland Cemetery for a ceremony, rifle salute, and taps at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. *9–11 a.m., Cross Street and Depot Town, Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4444.*

★**Memorial Day Parade: Glacier Area Home Owners' Association.** Ann Arbor's only Memorial Day parade features a color guard and drum corps of Huron High students, a police car, fire truck, and perhaps some classic cars and a bagpiper or two. Kids invited to decorate their bikes and join in at the end of the parade. Parents with strollers also can join in. Followed by a brief memorial service in Glacier Highlands Park. Free doughnuts. *Note:* The well-loved calliope is absent this year because of the retirement of its owner. *10 a.m., Frederick to Middleton to Bardstown to Windemere to Barrister. Free. 662–3261.*

★**Memorial Day Concert: Ypsilanti Community Band.** Jerry Robbins directs this 70-member adult band in a program of patriotic and memorial music. *Morning time TBA, Yankee Air Force Museum, 2041 A St., Willow Run Airport (exit 185 off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free. 483–4030.*

FILMS

Melange. "Monday Night Movie & Dinner." See 7 Monday. Tonight: ***The Good Shepherd*** (Robert DeNiro, 2006), a thriller about the early years of the CIA. Matt Damon, Angelina Jolie, Alec Baldwin. Melange, 6:30 p.m. **MTF. "Black Book"** (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). See 25 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

29 TUESDAY

The Rosebuds: The Blind Pig. Indie pop-rock band from Raleigh, North Carolina, led by singer-songwriters Ivan Howard and Kelly Crisp. Opening act is **The Ladybug Transistor,** a popular, versatile indie pop-rock quintet from Brooklyn, New York. *10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors open at 9:30 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. First. Tickets $8 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (248) 645–6666; for information, call 996–8555.*

FILMS

MTF. "Black Book" (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). See 25 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

30 WEDNESDAY

★**"iPod Fever 101": Ann Arbor District Library.** Hands-on introduction to downloading music onto an iPod, making playlists, safety tips, and more. *1–3 p.m., AADL computer training lab, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

FILMS

MTF. "Black Book" (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). See 25 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

31 THURSDAY

★**"Intermediate Excel": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 31 & June 1.* 2-part introduction to some of this popular worksheet program's complex features. *10 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

★**Book Lovers' Club: Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled.** All invited to discuss ***Mighty Fitz,*** Michael Schumacher's examination of the career and wreck of the mammoth Great Lakes freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald,* and ***Tales of Burning Love,*** Louise Erdrich's novel about a ne'er-do-well who somehow charms a string of women. Refreshments. *Noon–4 p.m., Washtenaw County Library conference room B, County Service Center, 4135 Washtenaw at Hogback. Free. 971–6059.*

★**"Windows/File Management": Ann Arbor District Library.** *May 31 & June 1.* Hands-on 2-part introduction to the dynamics of the Windows interface and managing your computer files. *1 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free (AADL noncardholders, $10). Preregistration required. 327–8367.*

"Zingfeast: Down Under": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's chef Rodger Bowser hosts a dinner featuring Australian recipes—which often blend British, Asian, and aboriginal influences—made from locally grown foods. *7–8 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $35 in advance, $40 (if available) at the door. 663–3354.*

★**"Posse to the Pub": Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce "Curb Your Car Month."** Screening of ***Still We Ride,*** a documentary about the recent conflict between cyclists and police in New York City. Followed by a discussion led by city energy coordinator Dave Conkle. Socializing & free appetizers. Cash bar. *7–10 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 214–0100.*

"Steel Magnolias": Redbud Productions. *May 31–June 3.* Emily Rogers directs Robert Harling's loving and beloved portrait of eccentricity in the small-town South. Set in a home-based beauty parlor in Chinquapin, Louisiana, the play celebrates the strength of 6 humorous and individualistic women who share light moments and pull together when tragedy strikes. Hilarity and witty banter lead to a 3–hanky conclusion. Cast: Lenore Ferber, Chrissy Gibson, Kyle Marie, Mary Franceschi, Sandy Ryder, and Abby Huth. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $16 (students & seniors, $12; pre-play Haab's dinner discounts available) in advance and at the door. 663–7167.*

"When the Lights Come On": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Dustin Diamond: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *May 31 and June 1 & 2.* This comic actor is best known from his role as Screech in the various *Saved by the Bell* movies and sitcoms. His stand-up act features edgy topical and observational comedy. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all 8 p.m. Friday shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $13 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080*

★**"Moonshadow Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Slow-, moderate-, and fast-paced rides, 8–24 miles, along the Gallup Park pathway. Weather permitting. *10 p.m., Mitchell Field parking lot (east end), Fuller Rd. Free. 973–9225.*

FILMS

MTF. "Black Book" (Paul Verhoeven, 2007). See 25 Friday. Mich., times TBA. Other Michigan Theater films TBA.

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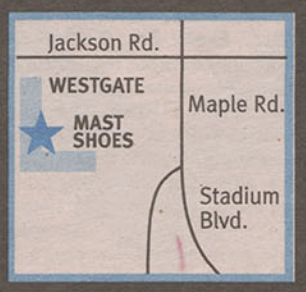

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Banfield's

3140 Packard Rd. **971–3300**

This east-side sports bar features live music or a DJ on Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Dancing, no cover. May schedule TBA.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, occasional early shows, 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.(except May 7); closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. **May 1: The Love Story.** New York City psychedelic rock trio fronted by vocalist Molly Donahue. Opening acts are **Elm from Arm,** a local progressive rock band, and **She Keeps Bees,** a male-female guitar-and-drums avant-blues duo from Brooklyn, New York. **May 2: The Slackers.** *All ages admitted.* Ska and rocksteady by this popular New York City band. Opening act is the **Phenomenauts.** See Events. 8 p.m.–midnight. **May 3: Minor Planets.** Local neo-new wave band. Opening acts are the Lansing pop-grunge band **Royal Affairs,** the local psychedelic-blues garage trio **Sik Sik Nation,** the local new-wave pop duo **Leah & Aaron Diehl,** and the Burlington, Kentucky, experimental folk duo **The Sheds. May 4: Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **May 5: Belikos.** See TC's. Opening act is **Nae Smiles,** an Ypsilanti hip-hop MC. **May 7: Copeland.** *All ages admitted.* Lakeland, Florida, indie rock quartet. Opening acts are **As Tall as Lions** and **Pilot Speed.** See Events. 8 p.m.–midnight. **May 8: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **May 9: The Setup.** U-M student alternative rock band. Opening act is **Mahoney** (see TC's Speakeasy). **May 10: "Funk Night."** With DJs Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **May 11: Mando Diao.** Swedish pop-rock quintet. Opening acts are **Pop Levi** and **The Films.** See Events. **May 12: Nomo.** Local 9-piece ensemble that plays a mix of Afrobeat with Sun Ra– and Coltrane-influenced jazz. The band recently released its Ubiquity Records debut, *New Tones*. **May 15: "Showcase Night."** See above. **May 16: Amber Pacific.** *All ages admitted.* Seattle pop-punk quartet. Opening acts **Melee, Monty Are I,** and **Powerspace.** See Events. 7–10 p.m. **May 17: The Go!** Detroit garage rock quartet. Opening acts are the Detroit R&B–inflected pop-punk quartet band **Freer,** the Detroit experimental rock band **The Questions,** and the Detroit psychedelic garage rock quintet **Siddhartha. May 18: The Album Leaf.** Ambient electronica quintet from San Diego. Opening acts are **Young Galaxy** and **Belong.** See Events. **May 19: Abolitionists.** Farewell performance by this local hip-hop collective. **May 22: The Macpodz.** Immensely popular local jam band plays an invigorating mix of R&B, soul, rock, and hard jazz it calls "disco bebop." Opening act is **U-Melt,** a New York City progressive rock jam band. **May 23: Andreyka.** Local posthardcore ambient quartet. **May 24: The Shondes.** All-female Jewish/feminist rock 'n' roll quartet from Brooklyn, New York, that's regularly compared to Sleater-Kinney. "The Shondes deliver a perfect blend of punk and gypsy folk music that comes across as both beautiful and enlivening. From the stomping thunder crush of the rhythm section to the well-placed violin and group vocals, this is a band that rocks as if they just don't give a fuck but has crafted their art in a manner that shows they clearly do," says an *Earfarm* reviewer. **May 25: Binary Star.** Local hip-hop duo of One Man Army and Sinim Silla. **May 26: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock. **May 29: The Rosebuds.** Indie pop-rock band from Raleigh, North Carolina. Opening act is **The Ladybug Transistor.** See Events. **May 30:** TBA. **May 31: Jamie Register Project.** Motownesque soul music by a band led by local singer-bassist Register.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the complex has 2 street-level clubs, the Millennium Club, which features MTV-style video hits on plasma screens, and Gotham City, which features DJs with house music Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (includes admission to all 3 clubs) Sat. only, dancing. Age 18 & older admitted. **May 4: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. **May 5: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this Detroit band. **May 11: House DJs.** DJs play hip-hop records. **May 12: Killer Flamingos.** See above. **May 18: House DJs.** See above. **May 19: La Trinity.** Local roots reggae band. **May 25: House DJs.** See above. **May 26: Killer Flamingos.** See above.

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music or DJs Thurs.–Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5–8 p.m. Also, karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: Mexican Night.** With DJ Miguel or a live Mexican band. **Every Thurs.: Electronica, House, & Techno.** With DJ Nate of Deep Blue. **Every Fri.: Latino Night.** DJ Xcess plays salsa, merengue, reggae, and other Latin dance records. Also, salsa lessons, 9–10 p.m. **May 4:** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a new 4-song minidisk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **May 5:** TBA. **May 11:** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs. **May 12: Deep Space Six.** Popular local Grateful Dead cover band. **May 18:** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **May 19: Johnny No-Stars.** Local psychedelic hard-rock quintet. **May 25** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from early Chuck Berry to Sam & Dave to the Meters. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **May 26:** TBA.

Club Bedrocks

2900 Jackson Rd. **665–4444**

Lounge in the Best Western Suites. DJs on Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Mix & Mingle."** DJs spin old school, R&B, reggae, techno, and hip-hop dance records. **Every Sat.: Latino Night.** DJs play Latin dance music.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.) and Tues.–Thurs. and occasional other nights (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.). **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Tues.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **May 2: Grievous Angel.** See Goodnite Gracie. **May 3: Bruno's Boys.** Traditional Irish songs of drinking and rebellion, accompanied on a wide array of instruments, by this Detroit-area duo. **May 9: The Hummingbirds.** See Zingerman's. **May 10: Toppermost.** Local blues-rock quartet. **May 16: Grievous Angel.** See Goodnite Gracie. **May 17: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet, formerly known as Blue Infusion, led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **May 23: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Leonard Cohen to Bob Dylan. **May 24: Randy Brock Group.** Detroit blues trio. **May 30: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **May 31: BusStop.** Smart, playful rock 'n' roll with a funky R&B edge by this Royal Oak band fronted by Julia Ingalls, whose repertoire ranges from vintage Stevie Wonder and Steely Dan to Sheryl Crow, along with some originals.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **May 4: "An Evening of Yogic Chants, Mantra, and Kirtan."** Led by an ensemble of local musicians. See Events. **May 5: Steve Deasy.** Detroit singer-songwriter. **May 11: Muruga's Global Village Ceremonial Band.** Local sextet led by percussionist Muruga Booker that performs an upbeat blend of rock, worldbeat, hip-hop, folk, jazz, and more. With vocalist Shakti, local keyboardist Martin Simmons, electric violinist Owen Balduf, bassist Richard Smith, and synthesizer player and Zen drummer Ken Kozora. **May 12: Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Trio.** This local trio led by guitar virtuoso Summers plays the music of Django Reinhardt, Charlie Christian, and Lenny Breau. With guitarist Chris Moyer and bassist Dave Sharp. **May 18: Ben Laatsch.** Indiana singer-songwriter. Opening act is **Clublight,** a Lansing duo whose music draws on indie rock, ambient, and folk influences. **May 19: The Bridge Club.** Wistful, witty roots-pop by the trio of songwriter-guitarist Keith Kiser, bassist Ralph McKee, and pedal steel guitarist Mark O'Boyle. **May. 25: Katseye.** Local acoustic duo of Kathy Gravlin and Kathy Wieland known for their rich, resonant vocal harmonies and for their varied

fusion jazz

Nick Strange Trio

Multilayered and sumptuous

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Singer-songwriter and guitarist Dan Orcutt has been making music in this town for about fifteen years. Like his other bands, the Nick Strange Trio is professional and tight, and Orcutt's vocals are still rich. But in the few years since I last saw him, his songwriting has matured. His songs are fuller, more orchestral really—and gain even more from the addition of new band member and powerhouse vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer.

The Nick Strange Trio often plays at Goodnite Gracie, and that's where I saw the group last. Andrew "O" Schreiber was at the drums, and John Sperendi was filling in for Rob Crozier on bass. Each of these guys also plays with various other bands, and it's a real bonus for Orcutt to have such flexible and gifted musicians onstage with him. He needs folks who can keep up with his different musical styles.

Orcutt's music is multilayered and sumptuous, but unlike what some other fusion or free-flowing jazz groups play, it doesn't make you feel as if you're not smart enough to "get it." He cooks up a stew of calypso, reggae, funky Delta, Afro pop, jazz, and rock 'n' roll and serves it up in a very palatable way. Days after I see his band perform, Orcutt's voice and melodies still play in my head, even though I don't know the lyrics. His music is groovy and comfy—like an afternoon drive in a convertible along the Gulf Coast.

I don't ordinarily like cover bands, but the few covers Nick Strange plays are arranged into what amounts to a different song with the same lyrics. It's done so well that I don't consciously compare the covers with the originals. They're like little surprises. For instance, the band played Tom Petty's "Free Falling" as a calypso. I sang along easily, yet I experienced it in a new way.

Orcutt introduced Jessica, and they played "Highway 441," a long, moody piece from the band's upcoming album. It's a good jam session, and Schreiber played a little military march. Jessica, who was wearing her thick black hair in a short, sly coif, subtly shook her huge black hoop earrings and easily filled the house with her voice, while the trio jammed behind her. She seemed to be having a great time.

"Someday I'll quit playing this homemade crap and buy a real guitar," Orcutt told us, but I can't imagine why; his guitar plays smooth, like his voice. Why ruin a good thing? After another song, the band picked up the pace a bit and allowed Schreiber to let loose a little.

During the break, before the crowd started yelling "Bring back the girl," I ran into Jessica in the bathroom. She looked fabulous and had no pretentious diva complex. Get this—she's an industrial systems engineer by day. No wonder she looks as if she's having so much fun onstage.

The Nick Strange Trio is at Goodnite Gracie on Thursday, May 3, and Saturday, May 26.

—Charmie Gholson

repertoire of traditional songs, covers, and Wieland's witty, thoughtful originals about women's lives. **May 26: Matt Jones.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **May 4: Jim Tate & Chris Goerke.** The veteran honky-tonk duo of singer-guitarist Tate and bassist Goerke features a varied repertoire and resonant vocal harmonies. **May 11: Tracy Mack.** Acoustic blues-flavored folk-rock singer-songwriter. **May 18: Danny Gutowski.** Local country singer who specializes in Johnny Cash songs. He is accompanied by and bassist Chris Goerke. **May 25: The Copycats.** Harmony-driven vintage rock by this local quartet whose repertoire ranges from the Beatles, Dylan, and CCR to Pink Floyd and Jethro Tull. **May 27: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-30s swing and 40s R&B. With veteran crooner **Jim Paravantes.**

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features occasional live music, 8–10 p.m. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **May 9: Sari Brown.** See Zingerman's. Opening acts are **Evan Bicker Williams,** a local singer-songwriter, and **Joshua Marten,** a Philadelphia singer-songwriter. **May 11: The Lisps.** Experimental Broadway-style pop by this Brooklyn, New York, quartet. Opening acts are **Double Dutch Will Take You Higher,** a performance art troupe from Cleveland, and the **Melting Fuck Collective,** a local avant-pop ensemble featuring members of Melting Moments and the Patrick Elkins Physical Education Band.

The Earle

121 W. Washington **994–0211**

Restaurant with live jazz Mon.–Sat., 8–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Tues.: Duncan McMillan.** Solo pianist. **Every Wed.: Rick Burgess.** Solo pianist. **Every Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble featuring pianist Burgess, drummer Robert Warren, and bassist Russel Tessier.

Elbow Room

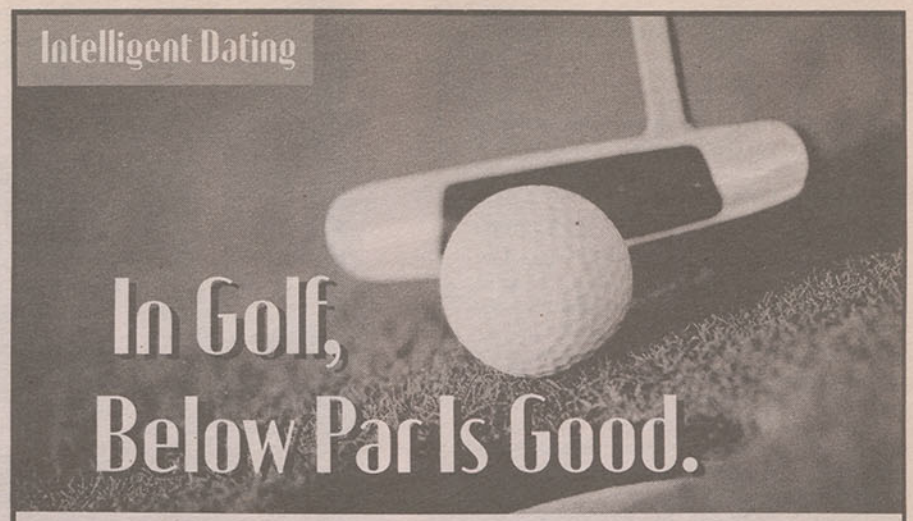
6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti 483–6374

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: "House Night."** With DJ Kriss. **Every Tues.: "Dance Night."** With DJ Conner. **Every Wed.: Open Mike Jam.** All musicians invited. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **May 4: Your Best Friend.** Saginaw rock quartet. Opening acts are the Detroit postpunk rock 'n' roll band **The Vespas,** the Clarkston experimental pop-rock band **The Vanilla Curve,** and the Detroit alternative rock band **The Day Manolete Was Killed. May 5: The Mighty Narwhale.** Grand Rapids progressive pop-rock septet. Opening acts are **Mick Bassett,** a Detroit garage-rock band led by this singer-songwriter, and **The Novel Citizen,** a Detroit indie funk band. **May 9: Jaded Reason.** Local emo-rock band. Opening acts are **The Setup,** a Lansing college rock quartet, and **Dynamite Bear Trap,** a local pop-rock quintet. **May 11: Vic Ruggiero.** The singer-keyboardist of the popular New York City postpunk ska band the Slackers is backed by an ad hoc band of local musicians. Opening acts are the local folk-rock band **The Ne'er Do Wells** and local country-folk singer-songwriter **Mike Boyd. May 12: Captured! by Robots.** A band made up of robots and their human "slave." Opening act is **Teddy Bear Orchestra,** a duo of robotic teddy bears. **May 13: Thomas Lunch.** Experimental rock quartet from Washington, D.C., led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Lunch. Opening act is **The Press Gang,** a Bowling Green funk-rock quintet. **May 16: Dominick's Plan.** Local rock quintet. Opening acts are **A Story Told,** a Lansing folk-rock trio, and **The Wednesdees,** a Detroit garage rock band. **May 18: Paul's Big Radio.** See Tap Room Annex. Opening acts are the Chicago garage rock trio **Big Buildings,** the Bedford rock band **Laurels of Bedford,** and the local alt-country duo **Bone Orchard Revival. May 19** (3–8 p.m.)**: The State.** *All ages admitted.* Veteran local hardcore band fronted by vocalist Preston Woodward and featuring guest guitarist Craig Claunch. Opening acts are **Mazinga,** a veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll, and **13-Step Group,** a Grand Rapids punk-rock band. Also, DJ **Pogo Mojo. May 19: "Ypsiozzffest."** Headliner is **Banned from Earth,** Detroit Black Sabbath tribute band. Opening acts are **60 Second Crush,** a Detroit hard-rock band led by Motordolls bassist Dana Forrester, and **Stitch,** a Detroit alternative metal band. **May 23: Genesis Theory.** Brighton funk-rock hip-hop ensemble. Opening acts are **Big Fat Kill,** a progressive rock-inflected hip-hop band from Wayne, and **New Rising Sun,** a Detroit blues-rock band. **May 25: Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome.** Local metal-edged punk-rock band led by singer-guitarist Ben Igrisan. Opening acts are Ypsilanti hardcore band **Minus 9,** the local hardcore band **Invader,** and **Seizure Lake,** a Lansing hardcore band fronted by a female vocalist. **May 27: Tara Tinsley.** Acoustic alternative rock band led by Tracy, California, singer-songwriter Tinsley, who recently released the CD *Sail Away*. Opening acts are **James Henes,** an acoustic rock band led by local singer-songwriter Henes, and **Eric Tice,** an Ypsilanti acoustic singer-songwriter. **May 29: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P.

The Firefly Club

207 S. Ashley **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club that was named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press*. Live jazz Mon., occasional Tues., Wed., & Thurs., 8 p.m.–midnight; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; & Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., Fri., & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5:30–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 20s and early 30s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band, formerly known as the Bird of Paradise Orchestra, led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. **Every Wed.** (except May 9)**: Paul Keller Ensemble.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this ensemble led by bassist Keller that features 3 horns. **Every Thurs.** (except May 10 & 17)**: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 50s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). **May 4: Maria Muldaur.** Veteran pop-folk and jazz-pop vocalist. See Events. 9 & 11 p.m. **May 5: Lorraine Feather & Shelly Berg.** Jazz vocal and piano duo. See Events. 8 & 10 p.m. **May 8:** Closed. **May 9 & 10: "Steppin' Out: Civic Does Cinema":** Ann Arbor Civic Theatre performers and alumni perform popular movie songs. See Events. **May 11: The Keller/Kocher Quartet.** Mainstream jazz by this top-notch local quartet featuring bassist Paul Keller, vibes player Cary Kocher, pianist Phil Kelly, and drummer Pete Siers. **May 12: "7th Birthday Celebration."** The Firefly celebrates its 7th anniversary with live music TBA. **May 15: The Cool Moose Orchestra.** Ensemble of local middle and high school jazz musicians led by Glen Tucker. **May 17: Kate McGarry.** New York City jazz vocalist. See Events. 8 & 10 p.m. **May 18: Lady Sunshine & the X Band.** Local gospel-flavored blues band led by Lady Sunshine, a fiery, rich-voiced singer whose style is something of a cross between Aretha Franklin, Koko Taylor, and Denise LaSalle. **May 19: Ben Janssen Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Ann Arbor–bred saxophonist Janssen, a recent U-M grad. Tonight the band celebrates the release of a new live CD. **May 22:** Closed. **May 25: Luther "Badman" Keith Blues Band.** R&B-inflected Detroit blues band led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Keith. **May 26: Dobbins, Weed, & Krahnke.** Local jazz ensemble featuring drummer Sean Dobbins, pianist Tad Weed, and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **May 29: Tad Weed Freedom Ensemble.** Progressive to mainstream jazz by an all-star ensemble led by this highly regarded pianist, a Jackson, Michigan, native.



(In Dating, Not So Much.)

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With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, Detroit bassist Tim Flood, and Los Gatos drummer Pete Siers.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **623–2070**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live jazz Wed.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. **Every Wed.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Every Fri: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **May 3: Nick Strange Trio.** *See review, p. 124.* Popular local jazz-rock fusion dance band whose music draws variously on blues, reggae, calypso, and other idioms. **May 5: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **May 10: SG Ensemble.** Local jazz ensemble fronted by vocalists Sarah Grogan and Sara Grieshaber. **May 12: The Alligators.** R&B and blues band from Detroit. **May 17: Grievous Angel.** See above. **May 19: SG Ensemble.** See above. **May 24: The Alligators.** See above. **May 26: Nick Strange Trio.** See above. **May 31: SG Ensemble.** See above.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features country bands on Fri. and a DJ on Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Fri.: "Latin Night."** DJ Ronnie Lucas spins salsa, bachata, merengue, reggaeton, and cumbaya dance records. **Every Sat: "Old School."** DJ Royce plays jazz and Motown dance records.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo piano by **Tim Knapp** (Tues.–Thurs., Sat., & Sun.) and **Adam Riccinto** (Fri.), 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **May 1–3: Herbie Russ.** Solo saxophonist. **May 4 & 5: Ultraviolet.** See Live at PJ's. **May 8–10: Al Hill Band.** Blues, R&B, and soul standards, originals, and obscurities by this local quartet led by Hill's wailing vocals and pumping piano. **May 11 & 12: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **May 15–19: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned*. With guitarist Dave Fero, blues harpist and keyboardist Phil Ryski, saxophonist Willie Rankin, bassist Wendy Hayes, and drummer Lenny Gilpatrick. **May 22–26: Soulstice.** Hard-driving dance band from East Lansing. **May 29–31: Al Hill Band.** See above.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, formerly known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing.

Leonardo's

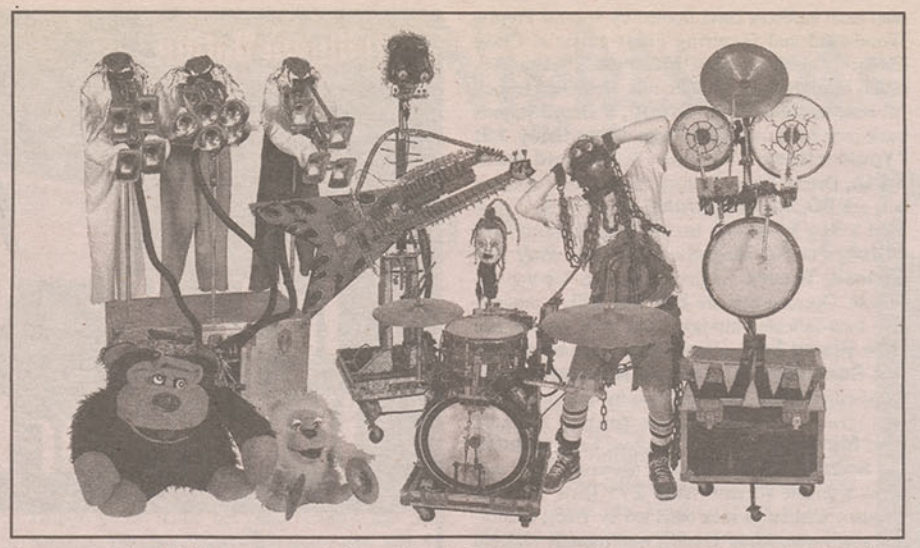
2101 Bonisteel Blvd. **764–7544**

Performance area in the food court at the Pierpont Commons on the U-M North Campus. Dancing, no cover. May schedule TBA.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **623–1443**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Wed–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Every Sat.: "Club Night."** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. **May 1: DJ Graffiti.** Local DJ who plays funk and hip-hop dance records. **May 4: Hot Sauce.** Detroit dance band. **May 5: "Cinco de Mayo Party."** Live mariachi band TBA (8–10 p.m.) followed by a DJ. **May 11: Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 80s & 90s rock hits. **May 12: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **May 15: DJ Graffiti.** See above. **May 18: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **May 19: "70s Night."** Local bands TBA play 70s dance, rock, pop, and jazz. **May 20: The Cabaret Cowboys.** Song-and-dance revue by this local all-female ensemble. 9 & 11 p.m. **May 22: "Party Night."** With DJs TBA. **May 25: Lucas Paul Band.** See Goodnite Gracie. **May 26: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **May 29: "Ace of Spades Records Presents."** Performances by local bands TBA.



Captured! by Robots, a robot band and its human "slave," perform at the Elbow Room May 12. Opening act is the robotic teddy bear duo the Teddy Bear Orchestra, dubbed "just like the White Stripes, only less hairy."

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music or DJs Wed.–Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Wed.: The Groove-Matist.** Retro, Top 40, and hip-hop dance party with DJ Mechial White. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** See Goodnite Gracie. **May 4: BusStop.** See Conor O'Neill's. **May. 5: Relativity.** Detroit jazz ensemble led by bassist Damon Warmack. **May 11: Odessa Harris Trio.** This dynamic Detroit vocalist, who sings bluesy jazz in the style of Dinah Washington, is backed by a jazz trio. **May 12: Tracy Kash Thomas.** Quartet led by this Detroit jazz singer-songwriter, a member of the all-female quartet Lorelei, who plays flute and piano. **May 18: Al Hill Band.** See Habitat. **May 19 & 25: Blackman & Arnold.** Gypsy jazz by a quartet led by guitarists Sean Blackman and John Arnold. **May 26: Kris K Band.** Local quartet led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing. **Every Sun.: "Vision Sunday."** Guest DJs spin house and techno records. **Every Mon.: "Factory."** DJ Jinx spins industrial, goth, and synth pop records. **Every Thurs.: "College Night."** DJ Hardy spins Top 40 and hip-hop records. **Every Fri.: "Pride."** With DJ Timmy D spinning high-energy dance tunes in the main room and, in the downstairs Red Room, DJ Mark playing retro music videos and DJ John G spinning Top 40 records. **Every Sat.: "Frequency."** In the main room DJ Binzo plays Top 40 hip-hop and dance music, and in the Red Room a variety of Top 40 music videos.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. and occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **May 6: Orpheum Bell.** Local country-folk swing sextet. **May 13: Charlie Weaver.** Acoustic folk music "with a touch of bluegrass and trout stream rhythms" by this northern Michigan singer-guitarist, a former Ann Arborite who was a regular at the Old Town Sunday night folk jams in the early 80s. **May 20: Dave Boutette.** Local folk-rock singer-guitarist whose genial songs about the small ups and downs of ordinary life draw on a range of influences from Chuck Berry to Paul Westerberg. He has released 2 CDs, including *Confetti*.

Oz

210 S. Fifth Ave. **222–4770**

Nightclub features DJs or live music Tues. & Wed., 8 p.m.–2 a.m.; Thurs.–Sat., 8 p.m.–4 a.m.; & occasional Sun., 6 p.m.–midnight. Cover after 11 p.m., dancing. **Every Fri.: International Night.** Arabic, Indian, and hip-hop music with DJ Fares. Also, a belly dancing show at midnight. **Every Sat.: Hip-Hop and Old Skool.** With DJ Fares.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **May 1: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **May 8: "Anything Goes Open Stage."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **May 11: "Local Color Music Showcase."** Performers TBA. **May 15: "Open Stage Jam with Oz."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Steve Osburn. **May 22: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited. **May 25: "Local Color Music Showcase."** See above.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs.–Sat., 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri.: The Groove-Matist.** See Melange. **Every Sat.: Mike Moore.** Jazz guitarist. **May 3 & 10: Steven Springer.** Roots-rock, reggae, dancehall, and calypso by this former Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band singer-guitarist, winner of 4 consecutive Detroit Music Awards for Best Guitar Player. **May 17: John Hobart.** Jazz pianst. **May 24 & 31: John E. Lawrence.** This veteran local jazz guitarist is joined by saxophonist Don White.

Rick's American Cafe

611 Church **996–2747**

This campus-area club features DJs Mon. & Wed.–Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Large dance floor. Dancing, cover. **Every Mon.: DJ Fro.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Wed.: DJ Big Daddie.** DJ spins dance records. **Every Thurs.: "Jammin' DJs."** DJs TBA play dance music. **Every Fri. & Sat.: DJ Big Daddie.** See above.

Rush Street

314 S. Main **913–0330**

The bar in this downtown restaurant features DJs Thurs. and live music Sat., 10 p.m.–1:30 a.m. **Every Thurs.: Mechial White.** DJ plays an assortment of contemporary music. **Every Sat.:** Live music TBA.

Studio 4

313 S. Fourth Ave. **302–3687**

This dinner club features DJs Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m., playing a wide variety of dance music. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & older only. **Every Sat.: "Hip-Hop and House Night."** With DJ Jason "J Smooth" Doliveck.

Tap Room Annex

205 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti **487–5544**

This tavern next door to the Tap Room features live acoustic music Mon., Thurs., & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.; & Fri., 9–11 p.m. No dancing, cover (Sat. only). **Every Mon.: Acoustic Open Mike.** Hosted by the Martindales singer-guitarist Brian Brickley. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All bands invited. **May 2:** TBA. **May 4: John Latini & Friends.** Acoustic rock-based originals by this veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, who is joined by different guest musicians each week. Tonight's guests are **Luke Sayers,** a Ferndale folk-rock singer-songwriter who is at the Ark on May 13 (see Events listing), and another singer-songwriter TBA. **May 5: Paul's Big Radio.** Rootsy country-pop band led by local singer-songwriter Paul Lippens. **May 9:** TBA. **May 11: Chris Buhalis & Friends.** This popular local singer-songwriter sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country songs about ordinary American life that range from stories set in Alaska's whiskey-soaked bars and Detroit auto plants to the caustically witty "Talkin' Sounds Just like Joe McCarthy Blues." He is joined by 2 other singer-songwriters TBA. **May 12: Gas for Less.** New local alt-country honky-tonk and rockabilly band led by singer-songwriter (and former Lucky Haskins frontman) Ryan Racine. **May 16:** TBA. **May 18: John Latini & Friends.** See above. Tonight's guests are **Brian Lillie,** a popular local folk-rock singer-songwriter, and **Jack "Trashcan" Mann,** an acoustic singer-guitarist who plays a varied array of covers. **May 19: The Hummingbirds.** See Zingerman's. **May 23: The Elevators.** Blues band. **May 25: John Latini & Friends.** See above. Tonight's guests are **Scott Baker,** an acoustic rock singer-songwriter from Bay City, and **Jamie-Sue Seal,** a Lansing-area roots music singer-songwriter. **May 26: Horse Cave Trio,** a local group led by veteran singer-bassist Ron Devore that plays blues-fueled rockabilly. **May 30:** TBA.

TC's Speakeasy

207 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 483–4470

This downtown Ypsilanti tavern features a jam session on Mon., karaoke on Tues., DJs on Wed., and dance bands Thurs.–Sat., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, poker tournaments, Sun., 7 & 10 p.m. Dancing, no cover unless otherwise noted. **Every Fri.** (6–9 p.m.)**: Rob Moses.** Local solo pianist. **Every Sun.: "Big Sonic Sunday."** DJ Rich E spins an eclectic array of music from the Cure and New Order to Jeff Buckley and Radiohead. Bands TBA. **Every Mon.: Acoustic & Spoken Word Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians and wordslingers invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Jesse Passage. **May 4: Macpodz.** See Blind Pig. Opening act is **T-Lo Effect,** a Kalamazoo progressive jazz-rock band. **May 5: Jameson.** Detroit sextet that plays a melodic blend of rock, funk, reggae, and jazz. Opening acts are **Detroit Crunk Stars,** a Detroit hip-hop ensemble, and **The Lords of Delray,** a Detroit psychedelic funk-rock band. **May 11: Red, White, & Booze.** 80s metal tribute band. Opening acts are **Coke Dick Motorcycle Awesome** (see Elbow Room) and **The Cobra Punchers,** a Flint metal-rock band. **May 12: The Muggs.** Downriver band that plays straight-ahead rock 'n' roll. Opening acts are **Laurels of Bedford** (see Elbow Room) and **The 77s,** an Ypsilanti band formerly known as Los Drogas that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar rockabilly. **May 18: The Bitter Inks.** Ypsilanti acoustic pop-rock trio. Opening act is **The Skinnies,** a Detroit grunge-rock quartet. **May 19: Collateral Damage.** Local hard-rock band. Opening acts are **HafLife,** a Detroit postindustrial electro-funk band, and **Approaching Zero,** a local alternative rock band. **May 25: Belikos.** Local Latin-spiced hip-hop/funk band fronted by vocalists Aaron Orr and Melissa Shihadeh. Opening acts are **Big Brother,** a Detroit pop-rock band, and **Mahoney,** a local acoustic experimental rock duo. **May 26: Dirt Road Logic.** Local 70s-style rock 'n' roll band fronted by singer-guitarist Eric Kelly and featuring 3 former members of American Cosmos. Opening act is **Mumble,** a local art-rock quartet.

Zingerman's Roadhouse

2501 Jackson **663–FOOD**

This west-side restaurant presents live music on its outdoor patio on Fri., 5–8 p.m. beginning May 16. No cover, dancing. **May 16: The Hummingbirds.** Twang-filled acoustic country and American roots music by the duo of local singer-guitarists S. G. Wood and Rachel Hercula. Winner of a Detroit Music Award as Best Country Band. **May 23: Jill Jack.** Folk-rock band led by this sultry-voiced Detroit singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Her 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. **May 30: Sari Brown.** Local singer-songwriter who writes reverent yet unconventional spirituals, late-night traveling songs, and folk-style story songs with poetic lyrics and a strong political sensibility. ■

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Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. ☎5693✍

SWPF, slender, attractive, educated, artistic, fun, warm, and loving—passionate about music, art, dancing, books, movies, travel—ISO a smart, kind, emotionally healthy man, 45–58, who enjoys closeness and shared adventure. ☎5692✍

SWPF, fit, good-looking, well educated, sane, reads widely (mostly NF, lately art history), enjoys the outdoors, museums, early/classical music, blues guitar; singer/songwriters not so much. Left of center; shocked, not shrill. Cracked up at *Borat;* can quote from *Dodgeball*. Idly seeking SM, late-30s to mid-50s, literate jock, nice manners, likes his work. ☎5688✍

DWCF, 53, NS, with everything but the guy! Happy with my life, ISO the right man to share it with. ISO D/S, WCM, 40s to 50s, NS. Enjoy simple pleasures, simple lifestyle. ☎5680✍

Chuckles, snickers, and sweet treats await romantic, fun-loving, intelligent, kind-hearted SWPM who enjoys dark-chocolate-covered strawberries and Milky Ways. ☎5686✍

Slender, fit, smart, liberal, educated, good woman ISO a very good man, 45–55. ☎5624✍

Highly educated, foreign-born American, semiretired, **SWF,** 5'2", NS, ND, in her 60s, ISO mentally and emotionally healthy good friend, gentleman, 65+. ☎5668✍

A combo of spirituality and love of music, movies, travel, cooking, astrology, and much more. Young-looking 69, open-minded, Indian-American, loving, caring, attractive, 5'6"/125 lbs. ISO a soulmate, loving, kind, NS/ND, honest, 60+ to 77, SWM/SAM. ☎5678✍

Exotic romantic flower seeks gentle gardener. Look between the weeds, discover a hybrid of creativity, a blossom of sun. **SWPF,** 49, happy, healthy humorist ISO a variegated species for trellis climbing, meadow roaming, and love. ☎5683✍

Attractive brunette **W,** widow, youthful 60s, NS, Italian/American with many interests, ISO relationship/companionship with SWM, age 58–70. ☎5656✍

Crunching leaves, watching snowflakes, picking tulips, picnicking by the river. **SWPF,** late 50s, ISO SWPM to share delights of the seasons and more. ☎5648✍

Pretty nature lover, 5'7", 132 lbs., long curly hair, blue eyes. Into yoga, music, health, laughing, and more. Loyal, honest, and giving. Feeler of rocks, trees, and energy. ☎5630✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

SWM would like to meet an attractive lady in her 40s with quality sobriety, first things first, enjoys pets. ☎5691✍

Time for fun! NYC native with Midwestern heart, 50s. Consultant/liberal talk show host. Great kisser. ISO happy, thin/average contemporary woman with a great smile. ☎5687✍

SWM, 40-something, musician, vegetarian, offers inner wealth, wisdom, genuine care and love to similar kindhearted, non-yuppie, ageless W for friends first. ☎5682✍

DWM, 59, 5'7", ISO good-looking woman, 120–140 lbs., SWF, 45–55, LTR, NS. Loves movies and motorcycle trips. Loves being spoiled. ☎5679✍

Bright, bearded, boyish, monogamous **SWM,** 59, professional, fond of food, film, cats, chats, cuddling, walks, seeks SF for long-term romance, travel, fun. ☎5674✍

Time for a change? **SWPM,** 49, 5'8", fit, introspective, with no dependents, seeking fit SWPF, 35–50, who is flexible, fun, and curious. ☎5675✍

DWM, 77, 5'8", 150 lbs., handsome. Enjoys dance, travel, cards, and walks. NS, ND, emotionally and financially fit, from large family. Seeks LTR. ☎5665✍

21 things you want in a lover—the song describes me well. **SWM,** 46, healthy, happy, and a Green Builder. Hope to meet a fun, active SF to share life with. ☎5655✍

One-woman **SWM,** 45, seeks resilient, indoor/outdoor, independent/dependent, creative, fun, nontypical female. Warning: I have a son. ☎5649✍

SWM, physically fit, NS, intelligent, honest, accommodating. Enjoys books, movies, travel. ISO similar SWF, compatible, attractive, approximately 45–60. ☎2918✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. ☎5689✍

A middle-aged, multilingual Asian man seeks pleasant woman. Une rencontre au printemps? ☎5690✍

DWM, 54, 5'9", 150 lbs., no children, Ph.D. scientist/farmer in conservation/ecology. ISO woman scientist for rural life, international travel, romance. ☎4486✍

Educated, fit **DWPM** loves dancing, the outdoors, the symphony. ISO thin, elegant woman, 39–47, who is positive on relationships. ☎3031✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

Women Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.

Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

PERSONAL CALL
(900) 226–8978
18 or older. Touch-Tone phone.
$1.95/min.

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
You don't have to ski to be a member! The AASC is a "4 season" social and sports club for singles & couples 21/over from A2 and surrounding communities. Established organization averaging 400 members! Upcoming events: **5/5 Cinco de Mayo Celebration; 5/6, 20 Summer Fun Golf Outings; 5/10, 17, 24, 31 Softball League at Mitchell Field; and 5/7, 14, 21, 28 Volleyball in the Park. CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL OUR SPRING AND SUMMER SPORTS.** For more information on events, including sign-up procedures, consult the club hotline, (734) 786–2237, or www.a2skiclub.org.

It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

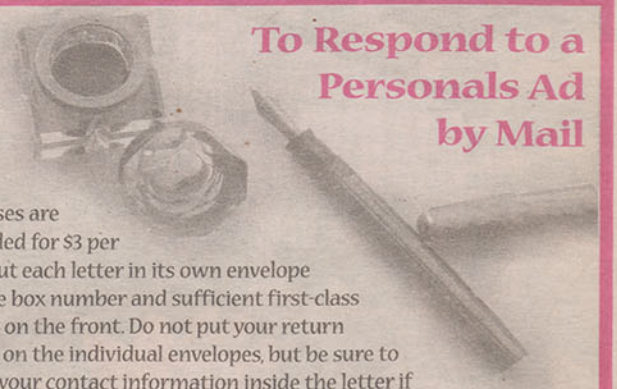
To Respond by Phone, Call 1·900·226·8978

Follow the simple directions and you will be able to hear more about the people whose ads interest you, or you can browse ads by category. With one call, you can leave as many messages as you like. You may call anytime, 24 hours a day. Voice greetings are valid only for the month they appear in print.

You must be 18 or older.
Touch-Tone phones only. $1.95 a minute.

Or to Respond by Phone Using a Credit Card, Call 1·888·718·4827

To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail



Responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:

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Please call with any questions or comments:
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We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Every Friday at 8:35 a.m. on WAAM 1600AM, listen for the latest events reviews from WAAM's Lucy Ann Lance and the Ann Arbor Observer's Amy Retherford. Find out what's going on around your town!

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Talk Radio 1600 WAAM

Ann Arbor Observer

Classifieds

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

Work from home, $500–$1,000 daily, returning phone calls. No selling. No boss. 1–800–940–7178.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

1997 Infiniti. Good condition, 126K miles. No rust, rarely in snow. All factory options (Bose CD, PW, PL, sun roof, fog lights). Located in Ann Arbor. $4,900 or best offer. Call (734) 604–0546 or email fatelloyd@aol.com.

Entertainment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

TERRABELLA TRIO
Elegant music featuring flute, violin, and cello. Call (734) 996–0303.

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Live harp music for any occasion.
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Classical/Flamenco Guitar—Romantic, energetic, professional. (734) 975–0678.

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Kids love puppet shows! Captivating, entertaining. Call (734) 657–4652.
www.amazingpuppetshows.com

Live harp music for any occasion. Harp doctorate, U-M. Flute and harp duo also available. Laurel, 663–9292/663–0087.

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD for referrals to qualified, professional piano teachers.
All levels and ages, 665–5346.

PIANO LESSONS, ALL AGES
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Convenient west-side location. Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 769–7646. Email mcpianolady@aol.com.

LEARN ARABIC
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Classical guitar lessons. Former adjunct professor at U-M. Matthew Mischakoff. (734) 429–3303.

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Cello lessons offered for adults and children by exp'd. prof. teacher and cellist with master's in cello performance. Emily: epkies@aol.com, (734) 332–0868.

PIANO LESSONS—Prof. musician on west side. U-M School of Music grad degree. Reasonable fee and flexible arrangements. Marian Patin, 761–7384.

You can sing!
Holistic voice lessons. Strengthen voice, gain confidence. All levels and styles welcome. Jesse Richards, N.A.T.S.
(734) 995–2972

REIKI classes through Master level. **FENG SHUI** classes to certification. Call June Bedwell, (734) 668–7778.

Be empowered to achieve academic excellence in the language arts through tutoring and strength-based academic coaching, grades K–8. Phone Kristine at (734) 668–7080.

Flute Lessons: all levels. Former college instructor. (734) 429–1389.

Teaching **Reading and Study Skills.** Ages 6–9, (734) 623–2061.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

Climate Control Indoor Storage
490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger. 662–5262. www.ccindoorstorage.com.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 147? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, May 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–4950; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put Fake Ad or I Spy in the subject line).

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

COMPUTER SUPPORT
Setup & support, home & small business. Call Tom, (734) 662–3537 or 929–0875.

Accurate Psychic/Channel/Medium: Personal and phone readings. Parties, events, gift certificates. Call Nanci Rose Gerler, Crystal Clear Expressions, (734) 996–8799.

★ Construction Debris—Recycled ★
Roofing, lumber, carpeting, and misc.
TRC HAULING, 665–6895

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Childcare finders. Reasonable rates.
See website or call (734) 480–2258.

Freelance editor/writer available for manuscript editing, proofreading, research, writing projects, web content development. Joel Seguine, seguinecom@ameritech.net, (734) 730–3410.

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Bat/Bar Mitzvahs
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Summer is a terrible thing to waste. Personal & professional coaching for professors can help you get on the path to productive writing and lead you to an enjoyable summer. Learn more at www.LeaderAcademic.com or call Rena Seltzer, ACSW, at (734) 665–4885.

Hearth in the Hills home day care. Infants to 5 year olds. Certified in early childhood and Waldorf education, healthy meals, daily activities, singing, games, stories. (734) 327–0786.

Business Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

Rose's Good Company
Serving Michigan Prison Re-entry Initiative. MPRI needs your help! Volunteers, fund-raisers, office help, transporters. Interested? Call Rose Martin today at Rose's Good Company,
(734) 604–5394.

Tired of dry, cracking skin caused by chlorine and chemicals in our water? Stop applying the lotion. Buy a whole house water treatment system. $1,800 for most installations. Manufactured in Troy, MI. Drinking water systems $125–$295. Municipal water only. Call Rob (734) 368–0114. Robert@HelpMeCLE.com. Since 1995.

Health

The **Classifieds deadline** for the June issue is May 10.

Voted Best Massage in Ann Arbor. Open 7 days/wk. **Relax Station.** (734) 623–1951.

REIKI treatments. Quiet Ann Arbor studio. Deep relaxation. Call June Bedwell, (734) 668–7778.

Affordable Massage for Every Body: Deep tissue, sports, pregnancy, injury rehab, on-site/event. Nationally certified, 12 years' exp. Clinic on west side. Open 6 days. Call **Carolann@Relax&Renew.** (734) 368–2138.

SANDYA—Spiritual Counseling. Rapid Energy Healing & Activation. 913–9670.

Supportive psychotherapy for people of all ages. Licensed social worker and substance abuse counselor accepts Blue Cross and private pay arrangements. (734) 255–3842. Rachel M. Webster, LMSW.

HEALING HANDS MASSAGE
Professional, comfortable, confidential. Come experience relief. 8 a.m.–8 p.m. Phone Lola, (734) 678–2529. Will return messages.

Rapidly resolve feelings of anxiety, panic, and depression. Receive coaching for sex/love enrichment, vocational advancement, and academic excellence. Phone Joseph Sestito, MSSA, LISW, CSW, at (734) 668–7080 or email at ericksonm369@yahoo.com.

Tired of dry, cracking skin caused by chlorine and chemicals in our water? Stop applying the lotion. Buy a whole house water treatment system. $1,800 for most installations. Manufactured in Troy, MI. Drinking water systems $125–$295. Municipal water only. Call Rob (734) 368–0114. Robert @HelpMeCLE.com. Since 1995.

Home

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Wanted

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Parents of 4 year olds: Join exciting U-M study on emotion in preschoolers (IRB BehavSci HUM00003873). $100 per family. Please contact Tassie at (734) 845–7632 or njhajal@umich.edu.

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3-bedroom home, with living room updated with brick and oak from Waterman Gymnasium, tile kitchen, near U-M campus and sports facilities. $295K. (202) 362–3231.

Condos for Sale

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REDUCED! END UNIT. View of woods and river in Saline. Large, open floor plan, 3 bedrooms, 3 full baths, finished lower-level walkout. Cedar deck. MLS#2702947. $255K. Sally, (419) 367–7368. **Open house May 6, 3–5 p.m.**

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3-bedroom home, bath, living room, dining room, off S. State near Yost Field House. Available May, $1,300. cedarlk3@aol.com

Vacation Rental

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Cross Village chalet 1 mile from Lake Michigan near Wilderness State Park, vrbo.com listing #90550, sleeps 7, $100/night, $700/wk. (231) 526–5028, sylviaja@charter.net

Property for Sale

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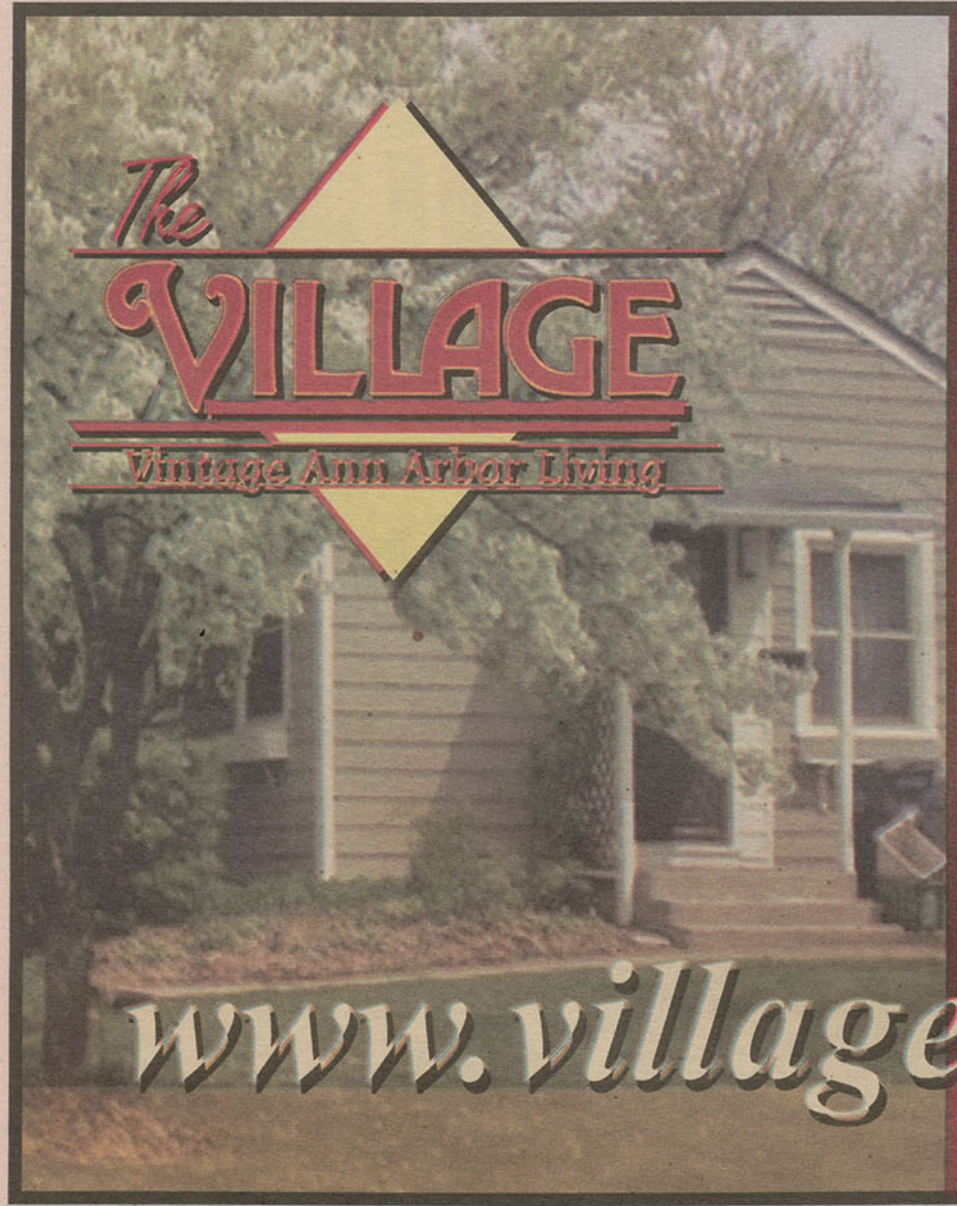

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On the Cover: Enjoy the benefits of home ownership and leave the groundskeeping and exterior maintenance to experts. This end unit in the Village boasts a quiet setting, cove ceilings, partial basement, private entry, private deck, and wood floors. Ideally located in southeast Ann Arbor, Village Cooperative Homes offers vintage townhouse-style living enhanced by common areas full of beautiful trees and flowers, as well as a community pool, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and playground areas throughout the complex. 2354 Parkwood, $99,900. Anita Slocum, Triad Realty. (734) 971-0230.

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Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for almost 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Breathtaking new construction in the heart of one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home is incredible, loaded with quality features and amenities. Custom kitchen with vaulted ceiling, fireplace, granite, and professional grade appliances, two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite and more. $1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $1,100,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Incredible 6-bedroom, 5½-bath custom-built home in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. The highlights include a private lot with extensive landscaping, gorgeous cherry kitchen with granite counters, two-story family room, den, luxurious master suite, and finished lower level with full kitchen and multi-use rec space. $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – 5-bedroom, 4½-bath custom-built home rests on an acre setting just minutes to US-23. Features include heated stone flooring, dream kitchen with maple cabinets, granite, and stainless steel appliances, luxury master suite with incredible bath and two walk-in closets, bonus room, finished basement, and 4-car heated garage. WOW! $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR HILLS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 5-bath home under construction walking distance to U of M Campus and Hospitals. Dramatic Arts and Crafts inspired home. Oversized dream kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite, and professional grade appliances, family room with vaulted ceiling, dream master suite, and 3-floor elevator. $999,500. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – DEXTER SCHOOLS – 5-bedroom, 4½-bath 2006 Showcase of Homes in Mystic Ridge by Charlestown Building Company. Only the best including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, extensive Brazilian cherry floors, custom trim, two-story great room with stone fireplace, and walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This incredible custom-built waterfront home overlooking the golf course is just stunning. Every detail is covered featuring two-story family room with wall of glass to water, gourmet kitchen with Sub Zero frig, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement with great multi-use space. This home is gorgeous!! $824,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

POLO FIELDS – This is one of the finest homes you will ever see! Top-quality, custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac with panoramic golf course views. Interior is special featuring ample hardwood floors, cherry kitchen with granite counters, oversized first-floor master suite, two-story living room, and finished walkout basement with theater. Wow! $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 4½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot overlooking the golf course is one of the finest homes you will find. Exceptional in every way this well loved home features a two-story great room, custom cherry kitchen with granite counters, luxury master suite with dream bath and closet, and finished lower level with wet bar. $729,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features showcase-like finishes throughout. Wonderful floor plan includes two-story living room, den with oak paneled walls, cherry kitchen with marvelous eating area, family room with site-built cabinets, and first-floor master suite with marble bath. WOW! $679,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – OLD WEST SIDE – This 2005 entry Ann Arbor Remodelers Home Tour is just perfect. Large addition and extensive renovation provide all the modern conveniences: cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with custom built-ins, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with bar. WOW! $659,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NICHOLS ARBORETUM AREA – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is just a short walk to the Arb and U-M Campus. Extensive renovation makes this home a wonderful find. Features include master bedroom addition, remodeled maple kitchen, oversized family room, ample hardwood floor, and gorgeous private lot. $619,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NE ANN ARBOR – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built, builder's home on a peaceful acre lot. This 3-year-old home has all the bells and whistles. Inviting brick and stone interior, two-story great room with vaulted ceiling, custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, dream master suite, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATHAEI FARM – Custom-built ranch on a peaceful acre lot is a nature lover's paradise. Enjoy private surroundings, and extensive landscaping from one of four decks. The interior is in perfect condition and has an oversized great room with redwood ceiling and natural fireplace, luxurious master suite, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LAKE FOREST – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial. Perfect setting backing to protected forest area. Interior is loaded including all hardwood floors, maple kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to woods, and luxury master suite including flex-use sitting area. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3 ½-bath home on one of the finest lakefront. Enjoy views from the large deck and year-round sun room on all-sports lakes. Home features remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets and Corian counters, master suite with private deck overlooking the water, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built on 5½ gorgeous acres, 2+ wooded. This stately home features a gorgeous new kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, huge family room with fireplace, gleaming hardwood floors, and luxurious master suite. Heated 3-car garage, extensive landscaping, and more. $579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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STONEBRIDGE – Enjoy near perfection in this custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Interior is gorgeous featuring large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BURNS PARK – Classic 3-bedroom, 1½-bath, two-story in walking distance to U of M campus. This home has all the charm and character you are looking for with hardwood floors and natural trim throughout. Additional carriage house provides extra income. $535,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Striking 4-bedroom, 3½-bath builder's model home now available in Legacy Heights. This 2005 Showcase of Homes entry is loaded with custom finishes and features. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, large family room, den with built-ins, oversized master suite, and designer décor throughout. $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4½-bath builder's model home in Huntington Woods. This home is incredible featuring extensive upgrades, professional decorating, and more. Amenities include gorgeous crown moldings, cherry kitchen, granite counters, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $529,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING–YORK PLACE - This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home in Saline's most desired subs. Perfect inside and out, includes professional landscaping, huge backyard, gorgeous décor, maple kitchen with granite counters and oversized eating area, open family room with vaulted ceiling, and luxurious master suite with two walk-in closets and dream bath. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – PITTSFIELD TWP – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built home is truly a find. One acre country sub setting convenient to everything. The interior of this home is spectacular, highlighted by a gorgeous cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury first-floor master suite, and bonus room. Milan Schools. $439,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $439,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP – Stately, new 4-bedroom, 4-bath colonial on a private 6-acre parcel just minutes to Ann Arbor, St. Joe's, and freeways. This home is loaded with quality features including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, ample hardwood floors, family room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This well appointed 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs features wonderful updates and is in perfect, move-in condition. Features include ample hardwood floors, great room with fireplace and beautiful windows, kitchen with granite counters, luxury first-floor master suite, and significant, mature landscaping. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – PLEASANT LAKE – This 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful lakefront settings in Washtenaw County. Enjoy panoramic views of the lake from the this bluff-top setting. Home features many updates including maple kitchen with Corian counters, living room with stone fireplace, and large decks. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Looking for a peaceful country retreat just minutes to I-94? Oversized ranch on almost 4 acres of wooded land. This home, featuring wonderful living areas and many extra multi-use spaces, is perfect for home office, hobbies, etc. Extensive updates including granite kitchen, luxury master bath, and wine room. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING–YORK PLACE – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot is loaded with custom features and amenities. Extensive landscaping, paver sidewalk, and oversized deck with built-in hot tub highlight the exterior. Cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, two-story great room, and luxury master suite. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BRIARHILL – Gorgeous home on a peaceful wooded lot with extreme privacy. Wonderful features and updates throughout including granite kitchen counter tops, gorgeous family room with vaulted ceiling, study loft with oak built-ins, large master suite, and finished basement with oak wet bar and great flex-use rec space. $369,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – EAST HORIZONS – Perfectly maintained 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet acre lot in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible value inside and out with extensive landscaping, brick paver patio, neutral décor, family room with fireplace, den, very nice master suite, and finished basement with great multi-use rec space has daylight windows. $369,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

TECUMSEH – Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 3-bath 1800s farmhouse on 15 pastoral acres 10 minutes south of downtown Saline. Featuring heated barn perfect for car storage. Interior has best of old and new with cherry kitchen and Corian counters, hardwood floors, oversized moldings, family room, and luxury master suite. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST HIGHLANDS – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the best lots to be found. Enjoy the quiet cul-de-sac location with expansive backyard, deck, patio, and extensive landscaping. Interior is move-in perfect featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, oversized kitchen with hardwood floor, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $334,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath, 2-story with over 2,850 sq. ft. represents one of the best buys on the market. Beautiful inside and out with extensive landscaping, large deck, and view of protected farmland. Interior features two-story foyer, den, open kitchen and family room, master suite with walk-in closet, and oversized bedrooms. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – HOMETOWN VILLAGE – Enjoy incredible views of nature, woods, and a pond from this super sharp 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's best neighborhoods. Wonderful home with large open great room, spacious kitchen with extra high ceilings, large deck with incredible view, and a nice master suite with walk-in closet. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – WILDWOOD – Super sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet lot overlooking a gorgeous pond and common area. You will love this setting! Interior is move-in ready and features living room with vaulted ceiling, formal dining, kitchen with oak floor, spacious family room, and walkout basement. $299,900, **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SAGINAW HILLS – Drastically reduced for quick sale, an incredible opportunity and value to the buyer. Striking 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a gorgeous 2.8 acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Oversized lot just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor. Unique design perfect for those with a little flair. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BROOKSIDE – Very nice 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in this super convenient complex just minutes to Briarwood, I-94, and downtown Ann Arbor. Wonderful features include 2-car attached garage, large kitchen, open great room, master suite with vaulted ceiling, and finished walkout basement. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This brand new 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a peaceful 2-acre parcel is just wonderful. This open floor plan features a large kitchen with maple cabinets and hardwood floors, large great room, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $239,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – This rock-solid 3-bedroom, 2-bath all-brick ranch on a peaceful oversized lot just minutes to US-23 and Arborland. Wonderful condition with spacious living room, nice kitchen, formal dining, partially finished basement, and heated garage. Bonus 24' x 36' outbuilding is perfect for car enthusiasts, boat, or RV storage. $219,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – MEADOW GROVE CONDOS – This super sharp 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath townhouse style condo on the south side of Ann Arbor is a great value. Wonderful flair throughout including two-story great room, formal dining area, large open kitchen, and master suite with walk-in closet. $219,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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YORK MEADOWS – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home is just perfect. Incredible setting with oversized yard, extensive landscaping, and large patio. Interior is out of a magazine. Cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with wall of glass to backyard, and luxurious master suite. You will love it. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – MANCHESTER – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a peaceful 2.8 acre setting backing to woods is just perfect. This home features only the best highlighted by custom maple kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, great room with cherry floor and custom built-ins, and a luxury mater suite with dream bath. $498,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – YORK MEADOWS - Gracious custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath colonial on a spacious one acre walkout lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. This home is loaded with upgrades including maple kitchen with granite counter tops, two-story family room with crown molding, sun room, den, and luxurious master suite. Great home! $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SCIO TOWNSHIP – Custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch on a pastoral 2.65 acre country setting. This home was built to the highest level of quality and energy efficiency. Features include all hardwoods floors, custom kitchen, maple cabinets and granite counter tops, oversized family room, luxury master suite, mostly finished basement and 3-car garage. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This 4-bedroom, 4½-bath Bayberry home in the Arboretum is an incredible value. Many quality features and amenities including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, oversized two-story great room, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished basement with view out windows. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – WEBSTER TOWNSHIP – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a quiet country cul-de-sac is just perfect. Gorgeous lot with extensive landscaping and oversized patio. Interior is highlighted by the two-story family room, cherry kitchen, back stair, and luxurious master suite. Dexter Schools. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – Enjoy stunning Huron River views from this completely remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath cape cod. Perched high above the river this home features a gorgeous living room, remodeled kitchen, ample hardwood floor, and luxury master suite with wall of glass to the Huron River. You will love it! $407,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – The perfect country oasis? Rock solid 3-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home features incredible views of nature, stream, spring-fed pond with walkways, extensive landscaping, and patio. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling and full brick fireplace, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – Are you looking for the perfect country retreat? This is it. Enjoy the rolling vistas from the rock-solid, all-brick ranch on 10 pastoral acres just outside of town. This home has the perfect set-up with two pole barns, fenced horse pasture, and in-ground pool. Interior is sharp with great room and finished walkout basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – OLD WEST SIDE – Stunning 3-bedroom, 1-bath, all-brick English Tudor. Walking distance to 2 parks and downtown. Beautifully restored home features all hardwood floors, new kitchen with maple cabinets and granite counter tops, and 2-car garage. This home is a real gem, you will love it. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAKE FOREST – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath former builder's model home is just perfect! Incredible features inside and out including extensive mature landscaping, large deck, and patio. Interior is highlighted by ample hardwood flooring, maple kitchen with granite counters, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $398,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BRIDGEFIELD ESTATES – This is one of the finest homes you will find. Custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to trees. Interior is upgraded in everyway including gourmet kitchen with maple cabinets, granite counters, and stainless steel professional grade appliances, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with sitting room. $379,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – HICKORY POINTE – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial is loaded with quality features and amenities. Features include ample hardwood floors, spacious formal dining room and living room, large kitchen with white cabinets and island, spacious family room, luxury master suite, and finished basement with view out windows. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING –PITTSFIELD TWP – This custom-built 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch rests on a peaceful acre setting just minutes to everything. Incredible list of amenities includes great room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, maple kitchen with granite, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with multi-use rec room, wet bar, and office. You will be impressed. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – This 4-bedroom, 2½-bath ranch on a spacious lot is a prime home for extensive remodeling or tear down. Property features rolling land and mature trees. Home is a sprawling 50's ranch with three fireplaces, guest suite, and covered patio area. $322,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – This completely remodeled 2-bedroom, 2½-bath condo is just perfect with a wonderful contemporary flair. Almost everything is updated including custom kitchen with granite, white cabinets, and professional grade appliances, marble entry, hardwood floors, and gorgeous master suite. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – HOMETOWNE VILLAGE – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs is in perfect move-in condition. Gorgeous setting, very pretty pond view. Interior is dramatic with 10-ft. first-floor ceilings, large kitchen, great room with built-in entertainment center, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MILAN – This is one of the nicest homes you will find. Completely remodeled 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on a spacious acre lot in York Township. The list is long: cherry kitchen, remodeled baths, perfect décor, finished walkout basement, huge deck and patio. WOW! $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – MAPLE CREEK – This very sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial in Pittsfield Twp. sits on a gorgeous almost acre lot. Interior spaces feature cherry kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling, and nice master suite with walk-in closet. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Perfect 4-unit income property in downtown Saline. Are you looking to get into rental property? This is the perfect property. Three one-bedroom apartments and an efficiency. All separate utilities, lots of updates, and stable rental history. $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – DEXTER – Great 3-bedroom, 2-bath, two-story on a peaceful 1.4 acre lot adjacent to Peach Mountain and Stinchfield Woods. Enjoy private walking access to one of the areas most beautiful pieces of land. Home has nice features including oversized 2½-car garage, screened porch, and partially finished basement. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – ANN ARBOR – This is the perfect 3-bedroom starter ranch on the west side of town. Everything is updated in this super sharp home. Extensive hardwood floors, remodeled master suite and kitchen, finished basement, 2½-car garage, and fenced backyard. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – GRASS LAKE – This 3-bedroom, 1½-bath 1800s farmhouse rests on a wooded acre just minutes to I-94 and Grass Lake. Home does need some work but has some updates completed and tons of charm and potential. Large living room with hardwood floors, stone fireplace, and original trim, remodeled kitchen, and 2½-car garage. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 1½-bath brick colonial, walking distance to EMU. This home is as cute as it gets and in move-in condition. Features include spacious living room with hardwood floors, coved ceiling and fireplace, formal dining room, large sun room, spacious bedrooms, and private backyard. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Reinhart Reinhart Reinhart R

Saline 5635 Catherine. Wonderful custom home loaded with upgrades. 4,300 sq. ft. + finished viewout lower level, 4 bedroom, 4.5 baths, 2 studies, built-ins, wood floors, great private views. $569,000. #2704646

Ann Arbor 3040 Bird Song Ln. New, Elan Designs brick and cedar home. 2.8 acres in King School. Maple/granite kitchen, study, 1st floor master. 5,200 sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, walkout. $1,090,000. #2606700

Ann Arbor 3964 Delhi Glen Ln. Building site in the Delhi Glen neighborhood. Unequaled, private site tucked in a mature woodland glen. Built by Christian Tennant. $390,000. #2616553

Ann Arbor 4114 Lake Forest. Terrific, custom, pristine home on fabulous lot. 3,666 sq. ft. with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and huge bonus room, cooks kitchen with granite, wood floors. $585,000. #2704591

Dexter 7300 Webster Station. Incredible, striking Arts & Crafts. 6,200 sq. ft. home on 10 wooded acre estate. Minutes from Ann Arbor. 6 bedrooms, 4f/2h baths, studies, timeless quality. $1,390,000. #2700630

Ann Arbor 532 Burswood. Incredible home and value! Beautiful brick 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath on private wooded cul-de-sac lot in Polo Fields. Finished lower level, white kitchen with granite and more! $459,900. #2703662

Dexter 3940 Glacier Lake Ct. Awesome new construction. 3,500 sq. ft. home in Preserve by Beechwood Builders. 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, study, cook's kitchen. Landscaped, deck. $699,000. #2703923

Ann Arbor 4988 Liberty. Luxurious brick/stone ranch with 7,500 sq. ft. on 1.5 acres backing to pond and golf course. Gorgeous finishes, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, Viking appliances. Outdoor veranda. $1,400,000. #2704601

dir: 734.669.5989
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Ypsilanti Better than new. 4 bedroom bi-level, new bathrooms, roof, windows, freshly painted inside and out, new flooring. Family room has wood burning stove. Ready for you! $149,000. #2704368

Ypsilanti Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home. Large family room with wood burning fireplace and cathedral ceilings. Oak kitchen with large eating area. Pittsfield Township taxes, Ann Arbor Schools. $244,900. #2704530

Ann Arbor Inviting home with 4 bedrooms, 1st floor master, 2f/2h baths- minutes from campus. Hardwood throughout, granite in kitchen, sunny 4 season room, finished lower level. $565,000. #2702422

Ann Arbor Delightful, unique bi-level with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, newer carpet, roof and windows. Freshly painted. Open living spaces, close to North Campus and Medical Center. $209,900. #2704150

Ann Arbor Sunny 4 bedroom contemporary with hardwood in foyer and kitchen. Beautiful condition, finished lower level with bedroom/den and large play/TV area. Fenced yard. $259,000. #2702639

Saline Warm and inviting 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home in Arboretum. Wood floors, 2 story family room, completely finished walkout lower level, granite counters, beautiful view of woods, $580,000. #2701152

Ypsilanti Meticulously maintained 3 bedroom home on 1.64 acres with mature trees and lilac hedge. Huge kitchen, family room, living room. Wood floors, new windows and roof. $240,000. #2703780

Ann Arbor Like new 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with huge family room, hardwood in foyer and kitchen. Fabulous back yard with brick patio and large pines for privacy. $319,000. #2703254

Pinckney Beautiful, unique lakefront property on the Halfmoon Chain of Lakes. 4,234 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, the best finishes. Incredible views. Docks and boat lifts included. $699,000.

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"Up North" Setting!

STUNNING KITCHEN! $239,900
Large loft over 2 car garage ideal for artist or hobbies. Open floor plan. Unique & adorable 2 BR bungalow. Summer cottage décor. Fenced yard with mature trees, feels like a park! Ann Arbor.

Updated Tri-Level!

LOVELY BACK YARD! $145,000
Fenced yard surrounded by mature trees Patio. 1362sf. 3 BR 2 full bath. New roof & windows. Low Superior Twp taxes

1920's Charm & Character!

LOVELY UPDATES! $150,000
Great for 1st time home buyers. Coved ceilings & light-filled rooms New vinyl windows. New roof. 3 BR. 1212sf. Ann Arbor schools.

TOWER PLAZA CONDOS

Spectacular Views! Walk to Central Campus 24/7 Building Security

10th FLOOR RANCH $230,000
Stunning upgrades 600sf. South exposure! Granite counters, Maple cabinets. SS appliances. Pergo floors.

Grand Studio

15th FLOOR RANCH $170,000
Light-filled south exposure. 420sf: Can be used as business/ office condo. Parking & additional storage available. New windows.

NE ANN ARBOR CONDOS

Stylish Elegant Decor

END UNIT RANCH $250,000
2 BR Northside Ridge condo. Crown moldings, wainscoting & arched doors. 10' ceilings. 1525 sf Cherry cabinets & ceramic tile floors in kitchen & baths. Full basement. 2 car attached garage.

Views of Woods!

BARCLAY PARK $230,000
Delightful two story. 2000sf. Includes finished lower level with daylight windows. 3 BR 2.5 bath. Fireplace. Covered deck. Attached garage.

Spectacular Pond Views!

RESORT STYLE LIVING $224,500
Beautifully updated two story. 2 BR. 2.5 baths. 2086sf with finished w/o. lower level. Fireplace. Deck/Patio. 2 car attached garage. Close to UM/St Joe Hospital. Enjoy pool, hot tub & tennis court!

ROSEWOOD VILLAGE

Light-filled South Exposure!

PRIVATE VIEWS $167,500
1st floor 2 BR ranch condo.1492sf. Stunning upgrades. 2 baths. Cherry cabinets, ceramic tile floors & SS appliances. 9' ceilings. Fireplace. SE area. Att garage.

FOREST CREEK CONDO

End Unit Ranch!

ATTACHED GARAGE $159,500
Lives like a single family home! 2 BR 2 bath. Cathedral ceilings in living room & kitchen. Full basement. Private patio. Lovely views overlooking grassy commons.

RESIDENTS/INTERNS

Walk to UM Hospital!

WHY PAY RENT? $228,900
1400sf 2 BR plus flex room. Ideal for room sharing. Attached garage. Low fees of $150/month. Quiet setting with views of courtyard.

CONDOS UNDER $150,000

Gorgeous Updates!

FINISHED BASEMENT $109,500
Two story with private entry & fenced yard. Stunning maple hardwood floors throughout the 1st floor. 2 BR. 1.5 baths. Trex deck. 882sf.

Walk to Shops!

DELIGHTFUL RANCH $135,900
Gleaming oak hardwood floors. 2 BR. Newer white cabinets and ceramic tile floors in kitchen & bath. Garage. Near Briarwood Mall.

Near UM Campus!

2ND FLOOR RANCH $120,000
Delightful 2BR Pattengill Condo. 867sf. Deck. Carport. Walk to shops & AATA bus stop. Enjoy outdoor pool.

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Saline Brick home in Travis Pointe. 4 bedrooms, 2f/2h baths. Many updates including: kitchen, bathrooms, new paint and carpet. 2 fireplaces. Ready to move in. $450,000. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909, 734-669-5959. #2702510

Jackson Half acre on Price Lake. Better than new home with 1st floor master, 5-6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, custom interior finishes. Finished walkout lower level. 3-car garage boat house. $569,900. Sherry Grammatico 734-604-0367, 734-669-5901. #2610083

Ann Arbor Magnificent villa, quality built, superb decorating throughout. Park-like setting with view of woods. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 2 patios, 2-car garage. $579,000. Jeannette Middleton 734-663-4723, 734-669-5826. #2701890

Ann Arbor Incredible contemporary with 3,600 sq. ft. + walkout: Awesome inground pool, hot tub and lanai with outdoor kitchen and bath, 1st floor guest suite/study, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths up. 2 acres. $799,900. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2617514

Jackson One-of-a-kind, secluded lakefront home and pole barn. Over 600 ft of frontage on Ackerson Lake. All of this on over 17 acres with wildlife galore. A joy to show. #1043907. $450,000. Ray Logan 517-522-3737, 517-522-5509. #2704151

Ann Arbor Burns Park Art Deco home with historic stone fence and gardens. Wonderful home with space to roam inside and out. 2 fireplaces, upper deck, sun porch, many updates. $700,000. Lisa Jaworski-Ridha 734-395-2586, 734-669-5896. #2705189

Manchester European Old World charm! Captivating, custom built 3 bedroom, 3 bath home nestled in 8 acres of woods, overlooking pond w/waterfall. Unbelievable finishes and detail. $620,000. Deborah Engelbert 734-368-3683, 734-433-2183. #2703840

Ann Arbor 6,500 sq. ft., 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath home with 160 ft. of sandy waterfront. 1,600 sq. ft. in finished walkout with family room, bath, bedroom, kitchen. Motivated seller will entertain any offer! $899,900. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909, 734-669-5959. #2700639

Ann Arbor This sharp, 3,000 sq. ft. colonial sits on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to mature trees. Gourmet kitchen with double oven, granite and hardwood, finished lower level, and 3 car garage. $500,000. Kim Peoples 734-646-4012, 734-669-5883. #2703540

Ann Arbor Inviting 4 bedroom, 1st floor master, 2f/2h bath home minutes from campus. Hardwood throughout, granite in kitchen, sunny 4-season room, finished lower level. $565,000. Sheila Shulman 734-996-3823, 734-669-5852. #2702422

Ann Arbor One-of-a-kind condo in the woods. This beautiful villa offers spacious 1st floor living with a finished lower level, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, study and lots of storage. $639,900. Susan Gartin 734-645-7219, 734-669-5958. #2502493

Ypsilanti Glennborough Subdivision. Brick "Hampton" built in 2006 with 4 bedroom suites, 5,300 sq. ft., granite, cherry, hardwood. Atrium, study, 3-car garage. On 3 acres. $995,000. A. Edward Ridha 734-645-3110, 734-669-5920. #2704255

Ann Arbor 132 Ashley Mews. Superior downtown townhouse in Ashley Mews! Great location, premium finishes throughout. Rare 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath unit with study, 2,800 sq. ft. 2-car garage! $565,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2700822

Ann Arbor Ives Woods. 2,828 sq. ft. home with 4 huge bedrooms, 2.5 baths, master suite, living and dining with walls of windows. Screened in porch. Unmatched quality, perfect for updating. $575,000. Susan Niethammer 734-646-6055, 734-669-5995. #2703685

Ann Arbor 4520 Stonemeadow. Everything you could want, priced to sell! 5,055 sq. ft. with 1st floor master, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, study. Minutes from town in private sub, township taxes. 3 acres. $775,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444, 734-669-5989. #2701082

Ann Arbor 5,100 sq. ft., .31 acres. Stainless/granite kitchen with 2nd kitchen in gorgeous walkout lower level. Truly a custom home with tons of trim, moldings, and built-ins. 2 decks and 2 porches. $999,500. Susan DeYoung 734-709-5246, 734-669-5951. #2703414

East Sales Office
2452 East Stadium
971-6070

North Sales Office
2200 Green Road
747-7777

West Sales Office
2355 West Stadium
665-0300

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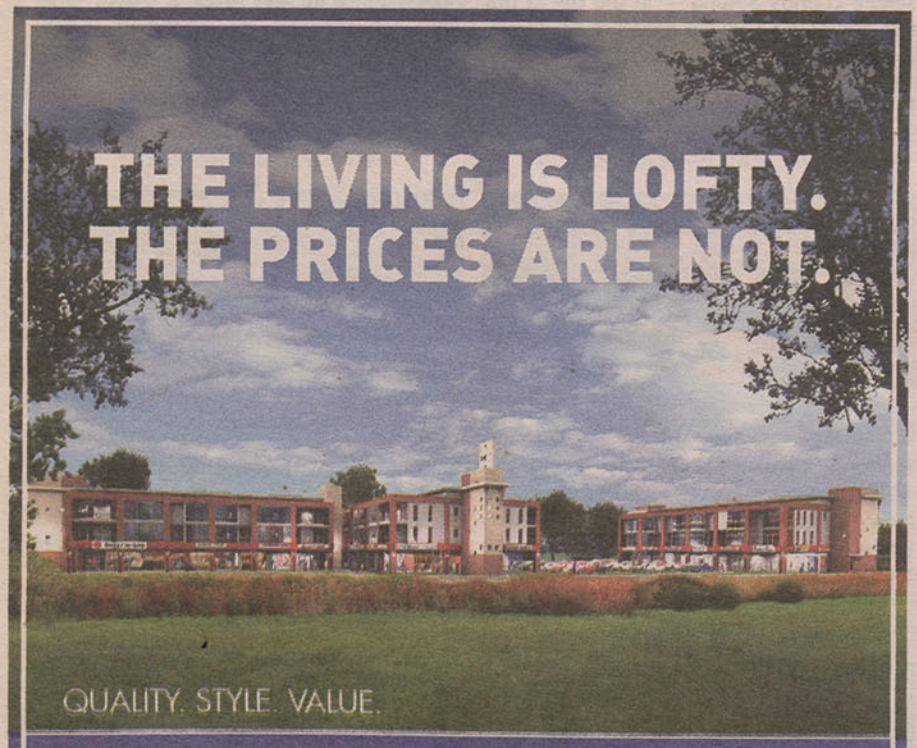

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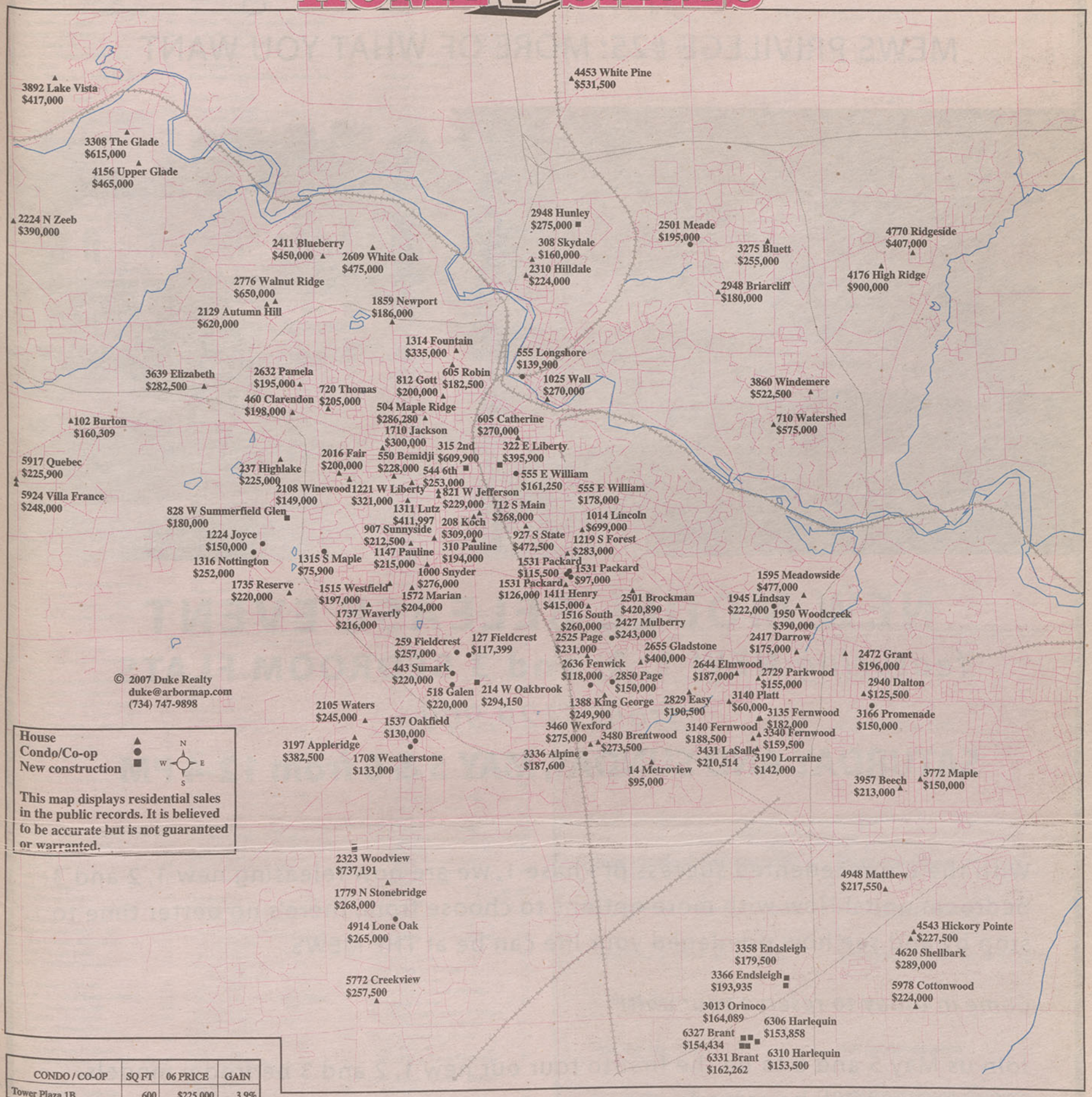

CONDO / CO-OP	SQ FT	06 PRICE	GAIN
Tower Plaza 1B	600	$225,000	3.9%
Brentwood Square 2B	1,563	$220,000	3.6%
Geddes Lake Co-op 2B	1,280	$102,000	-3.8%
Crossings 1&2B	800	$139,000	-4.1%
Weatherstone 2B	1,125	$147,950	-4.9%
Turnberry Village 2B	1,123	$154,258	-5.4%
Chapel Hill 2B	1,280	$161,000	-5.8%
Barclay Park 2B	1,900	$209,000	-6.3%
Briarcrest 2B	983	$130,000	-6.5%
Liberty Pointe 2B	1,378	$176,000	-9.3%
Georgetown Commons 2B	882	$122,450	-10.6%
Village Co-op 1B	940	$57,400	-11.7%
Walden Hills 2B	1,173	$113,000	-12.1%

Existing condominiums are selling at a fairly steady pace so far this year in the Ann Arbor school district; sixty-four condos sold in the first quarter of this year, compared with sixty-two in first quarter 2006 and seventy in the same period in 2005. But to move the merchandise, sellers have been making concessions: the median selling price for an existing condominium (half cost more, half cost less) in the first quarter of 2007 was just $161,000, compared with $184,000 in the first three months of 2006 and $178,000 in the first three months of 2005 (co-ops and new construction excluded).

The buyers' market has been fickle about where it collects a discount. For perspective, the table at left surveys thirteen condo neighborhoods and lists them according to the annual increases or decreases in the median selling prices of comparable floor plans for 2006 versus 2005, a method that facilitates apple-to-apple comparisons. Only two of the thirteen samples, Tower Plaza and Brentwood Square, managed to book gains. Losses were the rule, and they dropped into double digits in Walden Hills, the Village Co-op, and Georgetown Commons. While we have seen evidence of bigger losses in other complexes, the reasons typically include deferred maintenance and are not due to a soft market alone.

—Kevin Duke

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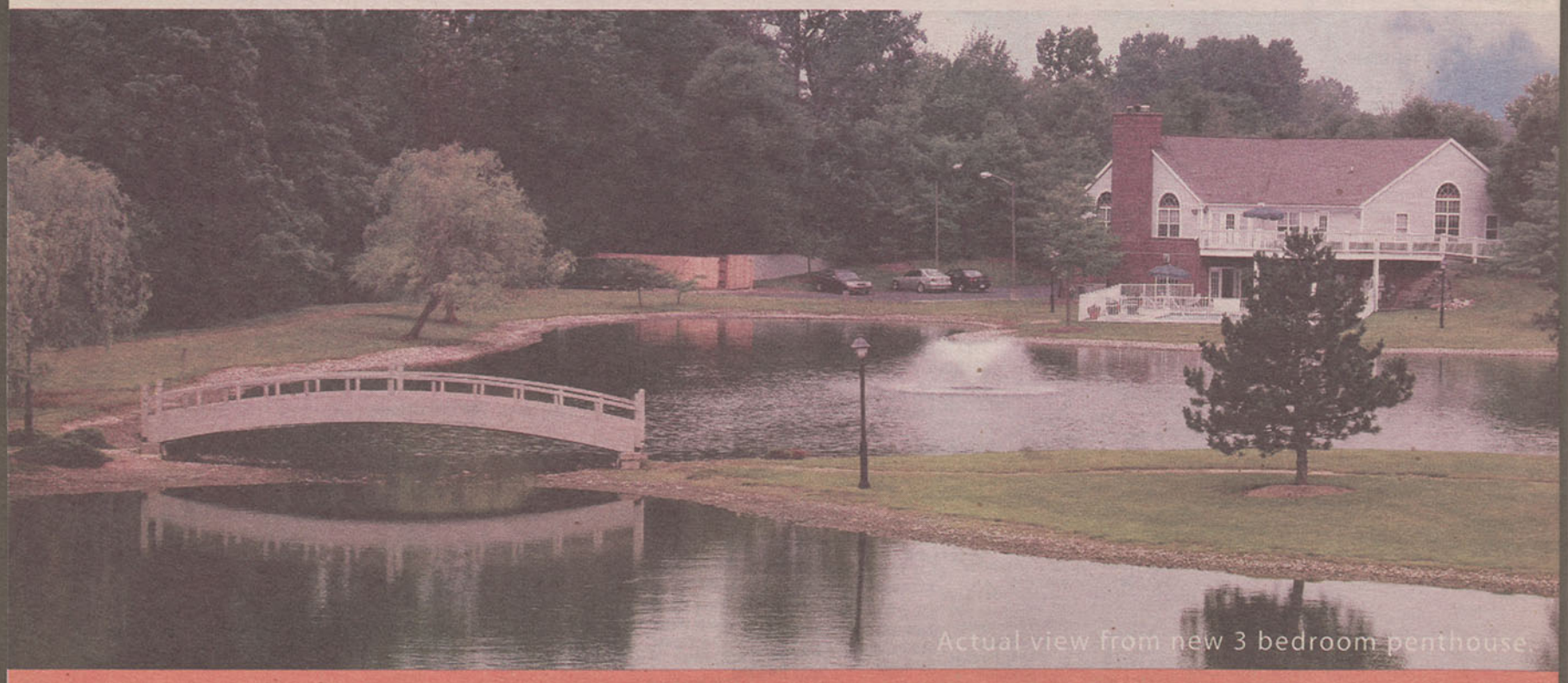

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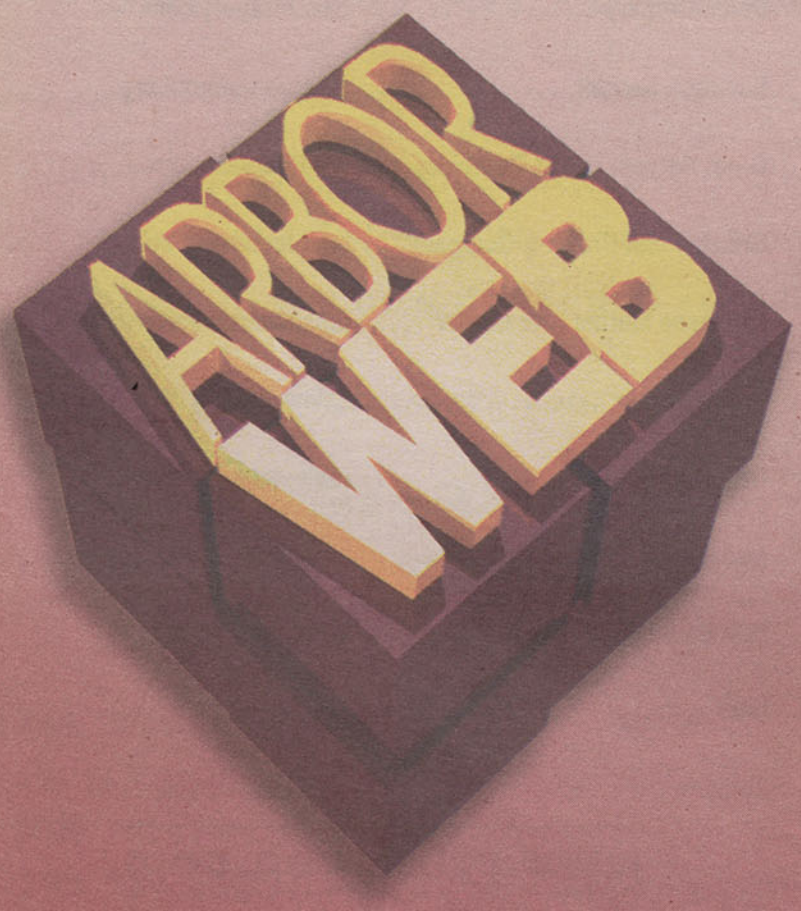

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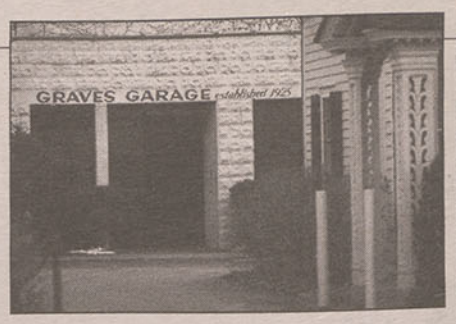

Can you catch a glimpse of "Graves Garage" downtown?

"The 'window' pictured in April . . . is a trompe l'oeil painting on the wall of Palio restaurant . . . [formerly] Quality Bakery," wrote Donna Wessel Walker, who ordered her wedding cake from the bakery twenty-five years ago. "Your I Spy contest . . . made me crave that creamy, sugary frosting from birthday cakes gone by," added Kathy Peterson. "And those doughnuts, those sugar cookies, those ladies in uniforms behind the counter, that tile floor . . . it all takes me back to 1985!"

For Barb Weid of Manchester the image summoned up "memories of trips with Mom every Saturday morning [that included] a visit to Quality Bakery for German pretzels and 'long johns.'" "In my student days," remembered Siri Gottlieb, "walking downtown to Main Street was almost the other side of the world, but well worth it for those hearty loaves of cinnamon bread, redolent with that heady spice." And Marcia Fisher recalled, "Years ago, when I worked at the Ann Arbor Savings and Loan on Liberty, we ordered boxes of cookies from Quality Bakery on a daily basis"—a lobby treat for bank customers.

Donna Wessel Walker voiced a sentiment that seemed to be felt by many of our eighteen entrants: "Wonderful as Palio is, I still miss the Quality Bakery!" Linnea Perlman of Ann Arbor won our random drawing and will receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo above to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

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Batting • Fielding • Throwing • Baserunning • Drinking • Flirting
Plus special instructions on strategy like: where to hide your boss in the batting order and in the field; how to call in sick to work and still play in the game that night; and how to accessorize your uniform to make it look "corporate casual" for the workplace.
One day only, Sunday, April 1, at the Wreck Department, 2468 Rawlings Road, Ann Arbor. 726-7932.

Last month's Fake Ad for the Wreck Department's company-team softball clinic (p. 98) drew 120 responses. The winning entry came from Ann Arbor's Cathy Chow, who is taking her gift certificate to Kiwanis.

"I've noticed that the Fake Ad Wizard has two basic templates: the openly humorous farce, and this one, the subtly humorous ad we wish was real," wrote Eric Sobocinski, also of Ann Arbor. "I must congratulate the Wizard for one of the best ads that we wish were real. I wonder how many people read the ad and thought, 'I could use that! But where's Rawlings Road?'" The Fake Ad Czar accepts the congratulations, but he discourages the title of Fake Ad Wizard. It's so Harry Potter.

The Wreck Department's clinic offered to teach the finer points of such standard company-softball-team skills as baserunning, drinking, and flirting, prompting Dexter's Martha Friedlander to suggest, "Sounds like the Fake Ad Czar has been there and done that." That's the kind of thing only the Czar's ninth-grade biology teacher (which Friedlander was) would know for sure—although, to be honest, he doesn't remember doing much baserunning.

To enter, identify the May Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. Remember that *arborweb,* the name of the Observer's website, is always hidden somewhere in the Fake Ad. (Last month that magic word was in the phone number, which could be dialed RBO–RWEB.) The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–4950. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Thursday, May 10, will be eligible for the May drawings.

Walk to Work Walk to School Walk to Walk Walk to Play
Fourth Ave Birkenstock
Birkenstock Sales and Repairs Since 1989
209 N Fourth Ave (734) 663-1644

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Executive CHEF JAN

Chef Jan - 40 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

TOP GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER:
2003, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1983

International Professional Culinary Competition
(The World's Largest Culinary Competition)

• Chef Jan Award Winner of the 2004 Olympic Silver Medal •

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Szechuan, Hunan & Peking Cuisine

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2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000
Voted Ann Arbor's Best Chinese Food by Michigan Daily

Events at a Glance

A capsule guide to selected major events in May. See p. 83 for a complete listing of this month's Gallery, Band, and Events reviews. Daily events listings begin on p. 83.

Lady Windermere's Fan

When the Lights Come On

Steel Magnolias

Theater productions in May feature an array of strong women characters in the Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre's *Lady Windermere's Fan*, the Purple Rose's *When the Lights Come On*, and Redbud Productions' *Steel Magnolias*.

Classical & Religious Music

- Westminster Concert Bell Choir, May 4
- The Vermeer Quartet, May 6
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, May 6
- Ann Arbor Youth Chorale, May 12
- Ann Arbor Concert Band, May 13
- Violinist Marian Tanau, cellist Robert deMaine, & pianist Logan Skelton, May 13
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, May 19
- Pianist Anton Nel, May 19
- Dexter Community Orchestra, May 20
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, May 20
- First Presbyterian Church Verdi Requiem, May 20
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, May 20
- Mr. B piano festival with William Bolcom, James Dapogny, Waleed Howrani, Glenn Persello-Seefeld, Rick Roe, & Tad Weed, May 24 & 25
- Phoenix Ensemble, May 26 & 27

Pop, Rock, Blues, & Jazz

- Mississippi Heat (blues), May 1
- Over the Rhine (rock 'n' roll), May 2
- The Slackers (ska), May 2
- Norah Jones (chanteuse), May 4
- Don White (singer-songwriter), May 4
- Maria Muldaur (chanteuse), May 4
- Jorrit Dijkstra/Tony Malaby Quintet (jazz), May 4
- Donald Walden Quintet (jazz), May 5
- Christine Lavin (singer-songwriter), May 5
- Lorraine Feather & Shelly Berg (jazz), May 5
- Duncan Sheik (pop-folk singer-songwriter), May 6
- Catie Curtis (singer-songwriter), May 7
- Copeland (indie rock), May 7
- Michael Penn (pop-rock singer-songwriter), May 8
- Brandi Carlile (roots rock), May 9
- Daniel Kahn & the Painted Bird (avant-klezmer), May 10
- Big Dandy & Los Straitjackets (roots rock 'n' roll), May 10
- Robbie Fulks (alt-country singer-songwriter), May 11
- Julie Wilson (cabaret), May 11 & 12
- Iris DeMent (country-folk singer-songwriter), May 12
- Luke Sayers & Mark Iannace Band (folk-rock), May 13
- Morrissey (indie rock singer-songwriter), May 14
- Peter Evans & Dave Reminick (avant-jazz), May 14
- Amber Pacific (pop-punk), May 16
- Wishing Chair (pop-folk), May 16
- Duke Tumatoe & His Power Trio (R&B), May 17
- Kate McGarry (jazz), May 17
- Jesse Palter Quartet (jazz), May 18
- RFD Boys (bluegrass), May 18
- Katseye (pop-folk), May 18
- Billy King & the Idylls (pop-folk) & S Apostrophe (pop-rock), May 18
- The Duhks (folk-rock), May 19
- Little Richard (rock 'n' roll), May 19
- Fairport Convention (folk-rock), May 20
- Ginn Sisters (roots music), May 22
- Hal Ketchum (country singer-songwriter), May 23
- Kristin Hersh (postpunk singer-songwriter), May 24
- Blanche (postpunk country), May 25
- Luther "Badman" Keith (blues), May 25
- Carrie Newcomer (singer-songwriter), May 26
- The Rosebuds (pop-rock), May 29

Ethnic & Traditional Music

- Nutshell (Celtic), May 4
- Utah Phillips (folk), May 4
- Mando Diao (pop-rock), May 11
- Back of the Moon (Scottish) & Frigg (Scandinavian), May 15
- Faileas (Celtic), May 18
- Josh White Jr. (folk), May 18

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *When the Lights Come On* (Purple Rose Theatre), every Wed.–Sun.
- *Amadeus* (Performance Network), every Thurs.–Sun.
- *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Huron High School), May 4 & 5
- *The Viceroy* (Comic Opera Guild), May 6
- *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Michigan Classical Repertory Theatre), May 10–13 & 17–20
- *Hamlet* (Young Actors Guild), May 11–13
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Pioneer Theater Guild), May 11, 12, & 18–20
- Dance Ensemble of Michigan, May 18
- *Bharatanatyam* (Sadhana Dance Studio), May 20
- *Steel Magnolias* (Redbud Productions), May 31

Comedy & Performance Art

- Ann Arbor Poetry Slam, May 1
- Comic Kevin McPeek, May 3–5
- Comic Karen Rontowski, May 10–12
- Boston International Comedy Festival Auditions, May 16
- *Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me* live taping, May 17
- Comic Jim McCue, May 17–19
- Comic Elliott Branch, May 24–26
- Dreamland Theater "Vagabond Variety Show 2," May 26
- Comic Dustin Diamond, May 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Ann Arbor Art Center "WineFest," May 4
- U-M Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Sale, May 5 & 6
- Juggling Arts Festival, May 5
- U-M Physics Olympiad, May 5
- Alebrije Productions Cinco de Mayo Celebration, May 5
- University Musical Society/Neutral Zone "Breakin' Curfew" teen showcase, May 5
- Ypsilanti Street Rods Car Show, May 6
- Antiquarian Book Fair, May 6
- 4-H "Spring Roundup Horse Show," May 12
- Anthony Wayne Cat Fanciers Show, May 12
- Spur of the Moment Club Horse Show, May 13
- Michigan Vintage Volkswagen Festival, May 13
- Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club Springtime Invitational, May 17–20
- Ann Arbor Book Festival, May 17–20
- Ann Arbor Thrift Shop 75th Anniversary Tent Sale, May 18
- Humane Society of Huron Valley "Walk & Wag," May 19
- Taiwanese American Heritage Week Celebration, May 19
- Rentschler Farm Museum "Springtime on the Farm," May 19
- Zen Buddhist Temple "Buddha's Birthday Celebration," May 19 & 20
- Australian Shepherd Association Stockdog Trials, May 26
- Journeys skateboarding & motocross festival, May 26

Lectures & Readings

- Novelists Rattawut Lapcharoensap, Kevin Brockmeier, and Akhil Sharma, May 3
- Countercultural historian John Sinclair, May 5
- Nobel-winning chemist Harold Kroto, May 11
- Poet Ed Morin, May 15
- Fiction writers Holly Black & Cassandra Clare, May 15
- Young adult fiction writer Joan Blos, May 16
- Reality TV pioneer Chuck Barris, May 22
- Novelist Mary White, May 22

Films

- Jewish Film Festival, May 6–10
- Filmmakers Kazuo Hara and Michael Moore, May 11 & 12
- Screening of the local documentary *Refusing to Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story*, May 18–22

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Twelfth Night* (Wild Swan Theater), May 2–6
- Children's Russian Club Cultural Show, May 5
- *Stone Soup* (Ann Arbor Junior Theater), May 17–20
- *Henry & Mudge* (Theaterworks USA), May 20
- JanetMarie & m'Archibald "Imagination Celebration," May 26

Miscellaneous

- Burns Park Run, May 6
- For Women Only 5K Run & Fitness Walk, May 20

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Ann Arbor Book Festival "Celebrity Define-a-Thon," May 19

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